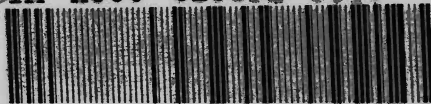


THE STORY OF
TEMPLEOGUE

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Cover: Arch built before 1745 as part of ornamental water works in the gardens of Templeogue House.

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THE STORY OF TEMPLEOGUE

The "Story of Templeogue" is an endeavour to link the past and the present so that people who live here now may become aware of its history.

Between the years 600 and 900 it was known as Tachmeloqe (Teac Mealog). At that time there existed a church named in honour of St. Mel. In 1290 a new church was built which was referred to as Temple Oge (New Church) or, in the Irish language, Tempull Og. Both these names were in use until 1800 and the area was mostly farmland.

Templeogue today, situated beside the River Dodder with views of the Dublin mountains, is a flourishing suburb with churches, schools, banks, playing-fields, parks, swimming pools and tennis courts. The Dodder, which rises on the southern slopes of Kippure and joins the Liffey at Ringsend, is nicely landscaped, providing pleasant walks along its banks.

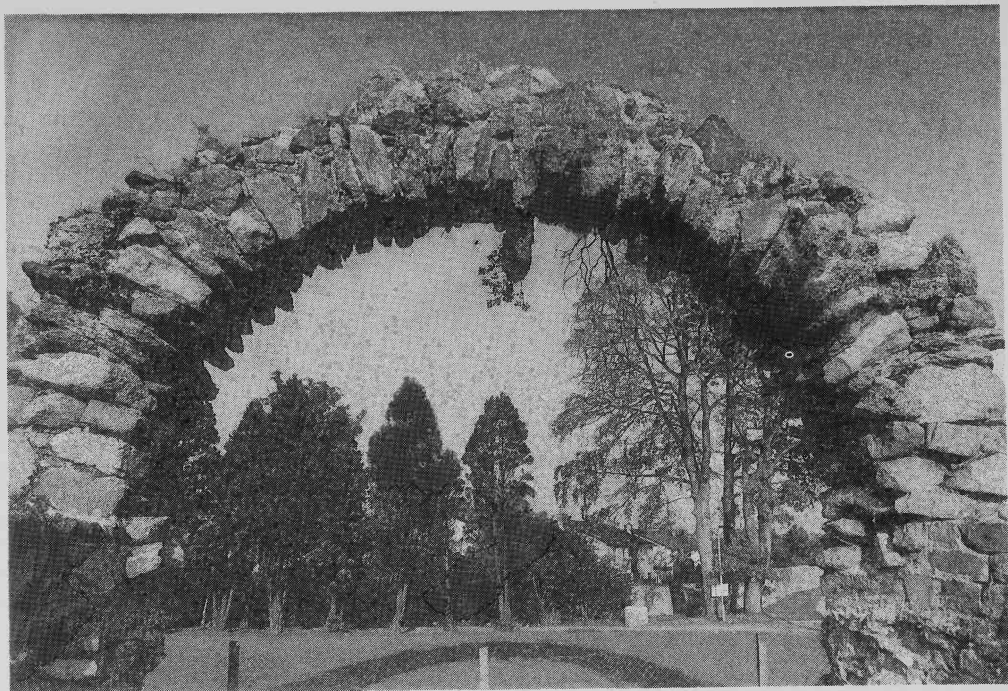
It is very popular with local fishermen and small boys looking for "tiddlers".

Let us, however, look back and see what life was like in this rural (farmland) area over 200 years ago. The city ended at the Coombe, so the approach to Templeogue was via Dolphin's Barn, Crumlin and Wellington Lane. Templeogue Road was not constructed until 1801 and along it ran the famous Blessington Steam Tram.

The "important" houses and their occupants, the water supply for the City of Dublin, the famous "Spa", are described in these pages, together with other historical facts which will surely be of interest to present day dwellers and many others, so let us take a step back in time.

Included also are some items relating to events nearer our own time which may not be generally known.





Templeogue House

Templeogue House, which occupied the site currently known as St. Michael's House, is situated opposite Cheeverstown House.

14th Century: In the beginning of the 14th Century these lands were occupied by the Harold clan of Harold's Cross fame.

16th Century: In the 16th Century they became the site of the residence of Richard Talbot, who was second Justice of the Common Bench and founder of the family now seated at Mount Talbot in Co. Roscommon. The Judge was responsible for the upkeep of the watercourse which ran near the castle and which supplied Dublin at that time.

He received payment from the mills drawing their power from the course. Judge Talbot died about 1580.

17th Century: In 1686 the lands of Templeogue were mortgaged for £3,000 by the then proprietor, Sir James Talbot to Sir Thomas Domville. Sir Thomas Domville subsequently got full possession of Templeogue following the outlawing of Talbot for having sided with King James in the war of 1688. On the site of the castle which was here in Talbot's time he erected a large red brick house with various quaint specimens of Elizabethan architecture. Parts of the mediaeval castle were incorporated in the new building.



Sir Compton Domville

18th Century: On his death in 1721 he was succeeded by his son Sir Compton Domville who made further improvements to the house and laid out magnificent gardens described by John O'Keeffe, an actor of that time, as

'intersected with artificial cascades in the Marlay style with statues and urns arranged on either side of the waterfall'. The Gothic arch over this waterfall is all that remains of the ornamental arrangements. Included in the formal

garden was a Doric Rotunda on a ramped mount. An interesting portrait by the Irish artist Anthony Lee of Sir Compton Domville, Bt., shows him holding the formal plans of his gardens with the waterfall and arch in the background.

The Domvilles had the same rights over the watercourse as the Talbots had in previous centuries. The importance of the watercourse to the citizens of Dublin can be seen, when, by merely threatening to cut off that water supply from Dublin, Sir Compton Domville obtained a pardon for his nephew, the last Lord Santry, who had been sentenced to death for murder. This happened about the year 1738.

Sir Compton Domville died unmarried in 1768 and left the estate to his nephew. He included his 'plate, jewells, ready money, cattle of all kinds, household furniture and pictures that shall be in the house in Santry' - by then he had inherited the estate of Santry Court. The Domvilles lived in Santry until the 1940's, when they sold the house and emigrated to England. The head of the family now lives near Oxford.

About the year 1820 Templeogue House was rebuilt. This plain two-story house is still there today. Some of the walls and vaults under the ancient castle were again incorporated. The proof of their being built in earlier times is known from the way the supports for the arches were designed. These vaults and arches are still to be seen today in the basement. One of the castle towers is also still in existence.

The last of the Domville family to own Templeogue House was Sir Compton Meade Domville. Domville was deemed

of unsound mind and was represented by Lady Mary Adelaide Poe. The Trustees were: Lt. Col. Wm. Hutchinson Poe (her spouse), Lt. Col. Geo. Webb and G.E.C. Maconchy.

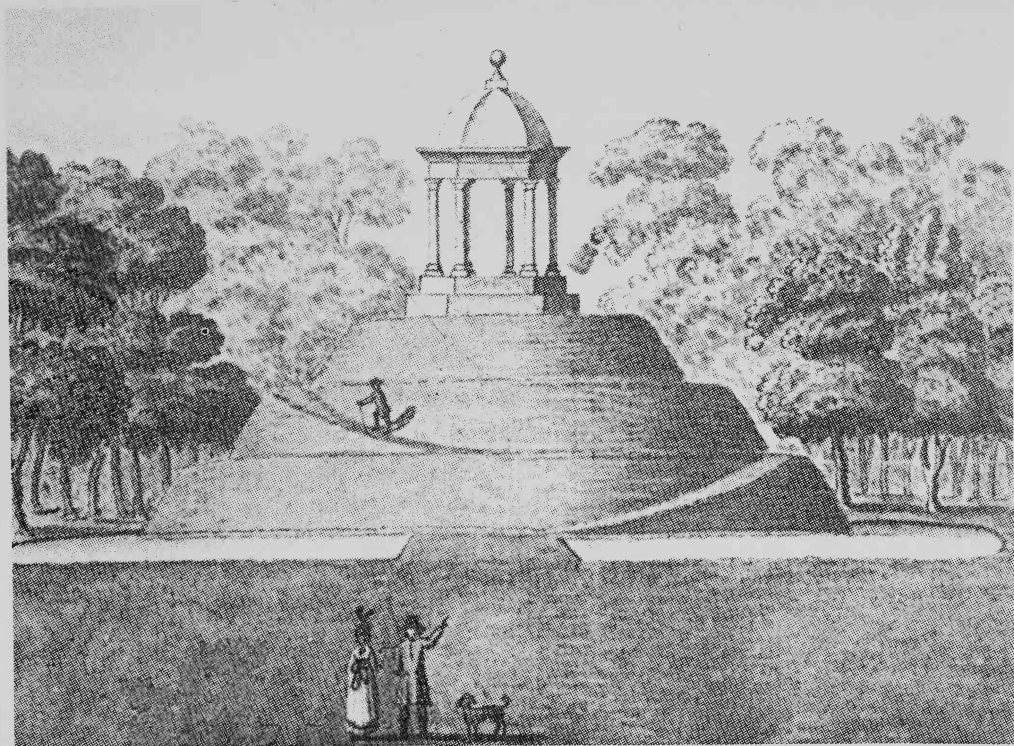
The name Domville is still connected with Templeogue through Domville Estate.



Charles Lever

In about 1843 the present house was occupied by Charles Lever, the famous novelist. William Thackeray was among the literary people entertained there. It is reputed that some of Charles Lever's novels were written in the tower on the left of the building.

Templeogue House was occupied by various people until it was sold to Henry White, Gown Manufacturer in 1945. It was previously purchased by a Mr. Bernard Daly in 1919. The Maynooth Mission to China (Columban Fathers)



The Doric Rotunda now sited at Luggala

purchased it in 1958 and sold it in 1972 to Crampton Housing.

The house was used for several years as a Workshop for mentally handicapped and re-named St. Michaels. A new and modern Workshop has since been built adjoining the old house.

The domed “temple” shown here is one of the last surviving garden ornaments from Templeogue House. It was probably built around 1840, on top of a mound where Templeogue Wood was later built. It was built as a belvedere or gazebo, from which the residents of the house (at that time the Domville family) could enjoy a view of the surrounding landscape.

In the late 18th century the Domvilles moved to Santry, north of Dublin, and took everything moveable from Templeogue, including this “temple”, which was re-erected in the grounds of Santry Court, where it stood until the demolition of that house in the 1940s. Following the tragic death of a member of the Guinness family about that time, it was arranged that the temple be moved to the estate of Lady Oranmore and Browne at Luggala, Co. Wicklow, where it stands as his memorial on the shores of Lough Tay. It can be clearly seen on the lawn by the lake if one takes the scenic route from Calary Bog, or the Coach Road from Roundwood to Sally Gap (L161).



Spawell House

Spawell House was built in 1703 as an Inn called 'The Domville Arms & Three Tuns'.

This quaint old-fashioned dwelling is situated on the Tallaght Road about 3/4 mile from the Templeogue Bridge and close to the River Dodder. In the grounds, a little to the east of the house and in the centre of a semi-circle hollow, was situated the chalybeate (impregnated with iron) Spa which gave its name to the place. In the early 1700's the rank, beauty and fashion of Dublin assembled at the now neglected spot for the purpose of drinking the waters. The

waters were also available in the City, fresh each morning, at 2 pence per bottle.

According to an advertisement in the Dublin Gazette of the 22nd April 1732 *"...The Well will be opened in Monday next, being the 24th of this inst., April 1732 and to continue until the 1st day of September following if required..."*

In the 1730's a weekly ball was held each Monday, which was a most fashionable occasion.

The House, or Inn as it was then, appears to have been built to accomodate the visitors to the Spa.

Between the years 1749 and 1751 the Spa was reported to have lost its health-giving properties and it was deserted by the fashionable folk, to be replaced by the "*voteries of boxing matches and cock fighting*". The Spa is now covered over, a slight depression in the ground marking the actual spot, and the water flows underground to the bank of the adjoining river.

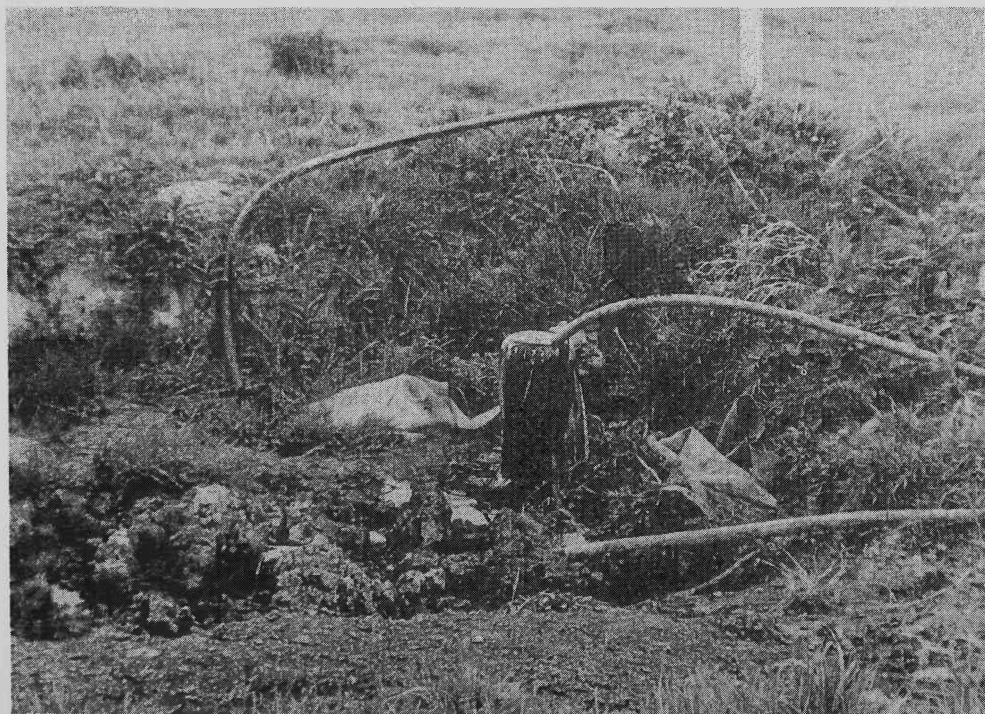
In its hey-day it was of such fashionable importance that there was a weekly paper of eight pages called "*The Templeogue Intelligencer*" which reported the doings and frolicking of the Spa drinkers. (*See page 34*).

In modern times the activities of the people of Templeogue were chronicled in *The Templeogue Telegraph*, a local paper which was published between 1969 and 1988. This magazine was produced and distributed by voluntary labour with a circulation of 1400 monthly. It was much enjoyed by its readers, and appears to be sadly missed.

To-day, 253 years later, Spa water is again available in Templeogue. It is on tap at Spawell Leisure Centre.

As it stands today, Spawell House is used as a farmhouse.

All that remains of the Spa





Cheeverstown House (formerly Kilvere)

This house was built about 1800 and was known as Kilvere for many years. The name "Cheeverstown" originally referred to a house in Clondalkin, which is not now in existence and was bestowed on Kilvere about 1933.

Geoffrey Foot (brother of Lundy Foot) lived in Kilvere. He built a cut-stone wall along the river at a cost of £1000 to keep out the floods. During the construction of this wall shingle and stones were carted away and the bed of the river was lowered. It therefore never rose high enough to justify his

expenditure. In Foot's time Captain Domville, then living in Templeogue house on the other side of the road, built a wall about 30 feet high to prevent his property being overlooked.

Archbishop Magee resided in Kilvere about 1829. It was said that some of the curious chimney-pieces and other things were transferred here when the old Palace of Tallaght was demolished.

John Sealy Townsend, Master in Chancery, later lived in this house and seems to have been quite a character. One day an Attorney met him on Essex

Bridge dressed in an old shawl which he usually wore in his office to keep warm and which he had forgotten to take off. The Attorney tried to call his attention to it. "Don't speak to me here", said Master Townsend sternly. "Whatever you have to say, attend at my office at a proper hour". "I only want to show you this," said the Attorney, holding up a corner of the shawl. Master Townsend was greatly confused and actually growled his thanks.

When presiding in his office, in addition to the shawl, he used to wear an old parchment deed suspended round his neck to keep his vest clean, also cuffs of the same parchment.

Master Townsend was of a very saving disposition. He sometimes gave dinner parties and when the wine had gone round what he thought was often enough, he would pretend to fall asleep. On one occasion B. T. Ottley of Delaford, who was well aware of this ploy, decided to take his place so he handed round the wine lavishly to the great satisfaction of the other guests. When the Master awoke he was not amused and Ottley was never again invited to dine in Kilvere.

Master Townsend, as was generally known, was very careful indeed with his money. This proved to be very lucky for his heirs when he died worth over £100,000, a goodly sum in those days. He had known enough law to dispose of it previously, presumably to them, so they did not have probate or legacy duty to pay.

In the early year of this century living conditions for poor people in Dublin were considered to be the worst in Europe. At that time one of the very

few groups offering help was the jubilee Nurses - or more formally - The Queen Victoria Jubilee Nurses of St. Patrick.

They brought together a small committee of charitably disposed people in 1904 and took a lease of a country house near the village of Clondalkin. The name of the house was Cheeverstown. The committee began to run the house as a Convalescent Home for children to help them recover from the common diseases of childhood, such as Whooping Cough, Measles, Diphtheria, Ricketts, etc. which, because of the dreadful living conditions of the time, often proved to be fatal.

In 1933 the lease of Cheeverstown house in Clondalkin expired and the committee asked Mr. Joseph McGrath, who had just started the Hospitals Sweepstakes, to help them buy a new premises. He gave them £7,000 to buy the property in Templeogue known as Kilvere - a house and ten acres of land. He also gave them £7,000 to furnish and equip the new home, which the committee continued to call Cheeverstown and so passed the name Kilvere.

The work of providing convalescent services for 700 Dublin children per year continued until 1972 when it was recognised the improvement in living conditions and development of Children's Hospitals had rendered the work unnecessary. The house was closed and the property lent to St. Michael's house for use as an Adult Special Care Unit for mentally handicapped people.

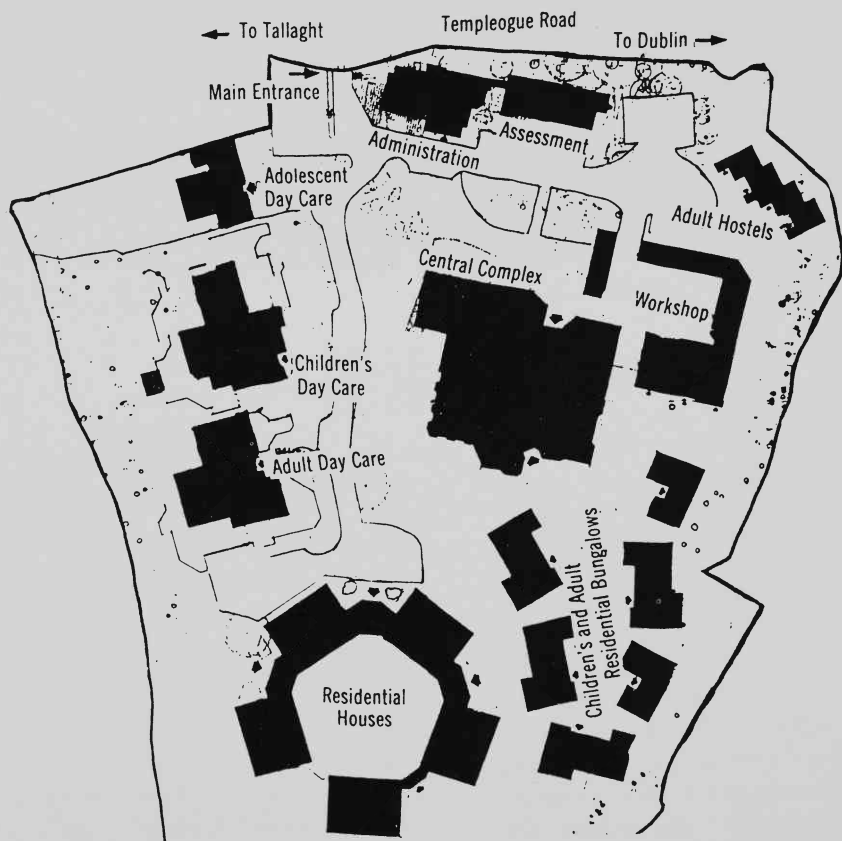
In the years that followed the house and land were offered to the Minister for Health to be made available for use as a

Centre for Mentally Handicapped Children and Adults. With the help of many people in the Department of Health, the Eastern Health Board and St. Michael's House, plans were drawn and building tenders sought. Building began on the 1st September 1980, with the Minister for Health of the time, Dr. Michael Woods, cutting the first sod. Building was completed on the 9th December 1983, the first Nurses were

employed on the 10th July 1984 and the first handicapped people admitted on the 12th July 1984.

The centre was officially opened by Mr. Barry Desmond, T.D. Minister for Health and Social Welfare on the 18th November 1984.

It is interesting to note that "Kilvare" is again in evidence, being the name of a modern housing estate in the area.



Plan of the Cheeverstown Village.



Bushy Park House, now Our Lady's School

Bushy Park House

This pre-Georgian House was built in 1700 by a Mr. Arthur Bush.

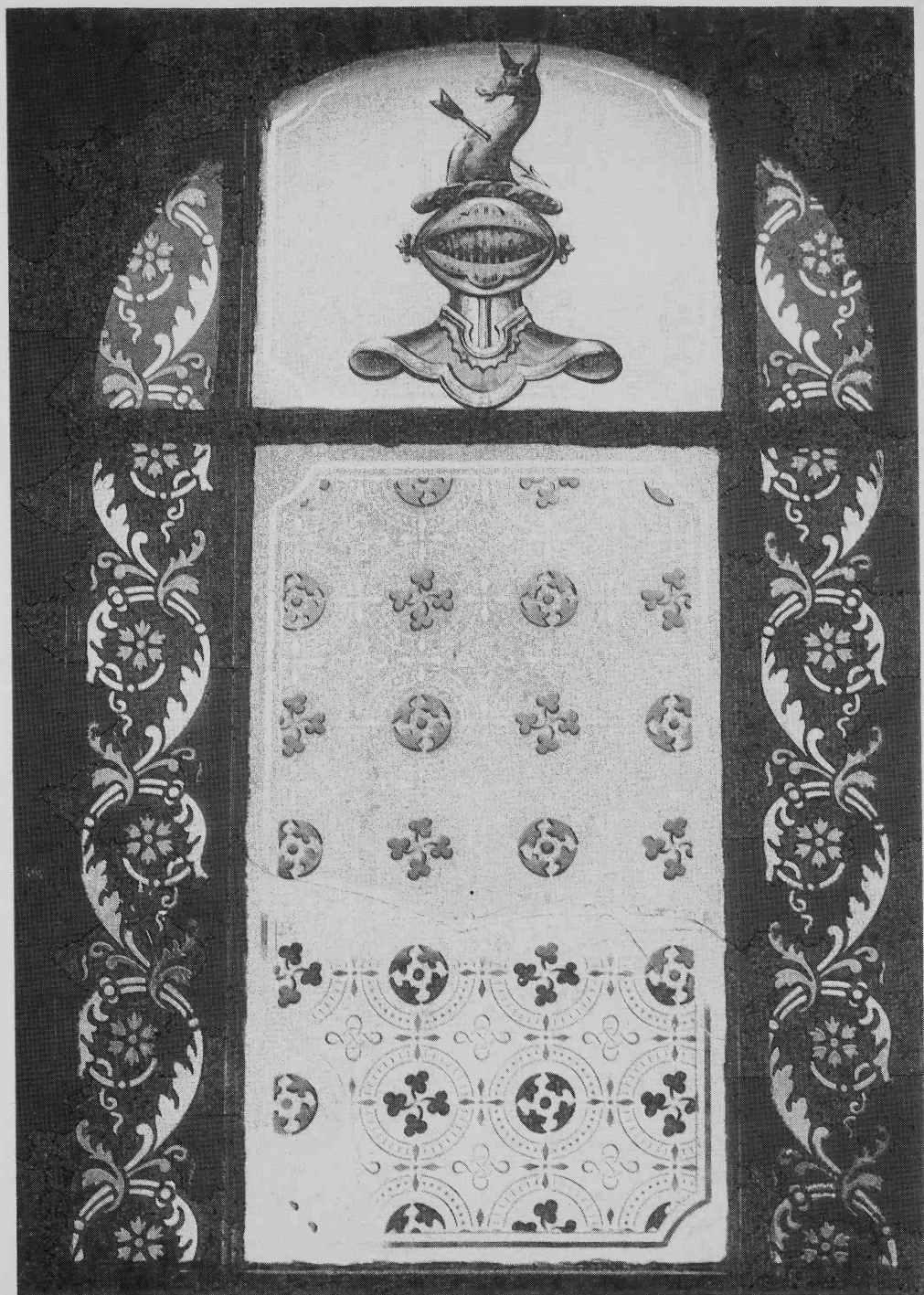
In 1796 Robert Shaw, eldest son of Mr. Robert Shaw of Terenure House, married Maria Wilkinson, daughter of Abraham Wilkinson, a wealthy merchant, who lived in Mount Jerome, but who was, incidentally, the owner of Terenure House, Mr. Robert Shaw Senior, being the tenant. Mr. Wilkinson gave the young couple one hundred acres of land and also added the magnificent sum of £10,000. Shortly after Robert and Maria had settled into Bushy Park House, Robert Shaw Senior died and his son came into possession of Terenure House as well. At this time

there was a tree-lined Avenue half a mile long leading down to the entrance gate on Rathfarnham Road. This was beside "Falburg", and one of the old pillars is still standing.

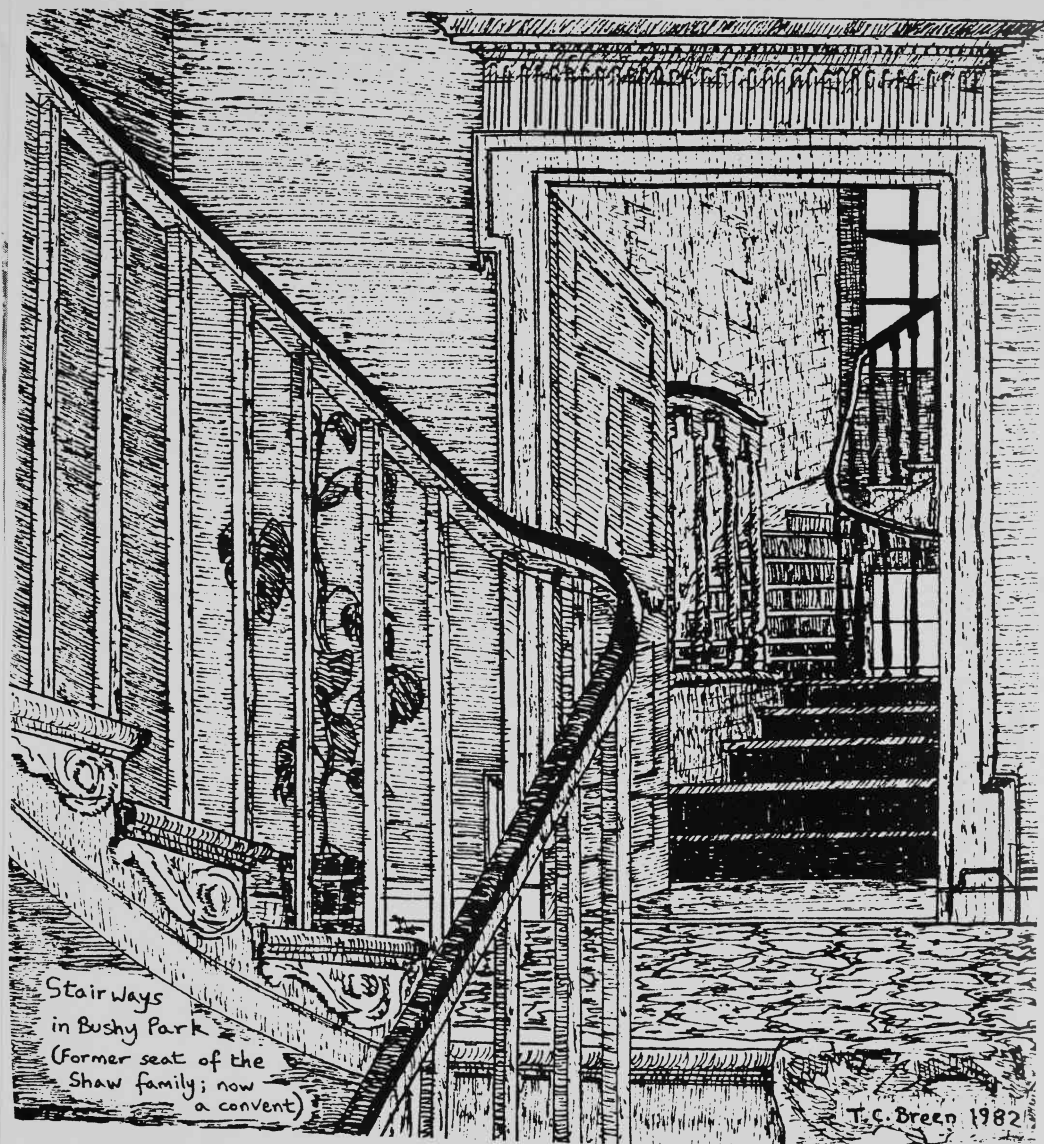
In 1821, George IV, when he came to Dublin, created Robert Shaw a Baronet, the first Sir Robert Shaw.

When the new road cut through the demesne of Terenure house, Sir Robert sold that estate, and Bushy Park House became the family seat.

Lady Shaw, widow of the 5th Baronet, died in 1946, and her daughter Mary, resided in Bushy Park House until 1951, when the house and property were sold to Dublin Corporation.



Detail from window in Bushy Park House, showing Shaw Family Crest



In 1953 the Religious of Christian Education, established a secondary school for girls in the house with 29 pupils ranging in age from 8 - 12 years, 1955 and 1956 saw extensions and the now famed Maria Vitae Porta archway. Shortly afterwards the Home Economics wing was added. 1963 saw St. Joseph's

Hall with classrooms over. The Lafosse Wing was opened in 1977 and a much needed Science Block was added in 1979.

Our Lady's School, Templeogue, now houses over 1,000 girls, involving a much larger school than the Founders envisaged.

Terenure House

In 1671 Major Joseph Deane of Crumlin bought the lands of Terenure, together with those of Kimmage and "The Broads" for £4,000 from Richard Talbot, afterwards Earl of Tyrconnel, in whom the fee was then vested. Major Deane became member of Parliament for Inistogue, Co. Kilkenny, and Sheriff of the County of Dublin. When Joseph Deane died in 1699, Terenure passed to his second son Edward. The Deanes were connected with Terenure House until the latter part of the 18th Century. It is interesting to note that when in 1750 the then incumbent, another Edward Deane, advertised that the house of Terenure was to be set, it was mentioned that in the gardens, which contained about four acres, there were two large fish ponds stocked with carp and tench, and that the house commanded an agreeable prospect of the harbour of Dublin.

In the latter part of the 18th century Terenure House was occupied by Mr. Robert Shaw, Controller of the General Post Office in Ireland, and founder of one of the leading Dublin Banks of his day. When he died in 1796 an obituary in the Hibernian Magazine praised his dignity, generous temper, unaffected piety and extensive charity. He was succeeded by his eldest son Robert, who was member of Parliament of the City of Dublin for many years, served as Lord Mayor, and was made a Baronet. The demesne ran down to the river Dodder, joining there the lands of Rathfarnham, and included all the lands comprised in Bushy Park. When at the beginning of

the 19th century, the road from Terenure to Tallaght was built it divided the property, and Sir Robert Shaw moved his residence to Bushy Park. Terenure House became the home of Mr. Frederick Bourne, in whose time it was noted for the beauty of its gardens. A picture of the house at this time appeared on the front cover of the Dublin Penny Journal dated August 1832.

On the 10th January, 1860, the Carmelite Fathers opened their boys school in Terenure House with twenty-one pupils. Fr. Albert Bennett and Father Michael Gilligan, the first Prior, were the Architects of this new venture for the Carmelites in Ireland. Here is a copy of the College advertisement for 1866:-

"The Course of Instruction includes the Greek and Latin Classics, Modern Languages, Mathematics, Natural Philosophy, History and Literature.

Special attention is given to English and to every subject requisite to complete a Commercial Education.

Formation of gentleman-like, neat, orderly habits and especially the Religious and Moral Training of the Pupils engage the constant care of the Fathers.

Examinations are held at Christmas, Easter and in the Summer. Results are sent to the Parents.

Board and Tuition in Classics, Mathematics, French and English, £30.

Application for admission should be sent to Rev. Michael J. Gilligan, O.C.C.

Staff: Revs. M. Moore, E. Davis, P. O'Toole, T. Bartley, O. Cullen, T. Sheridan."

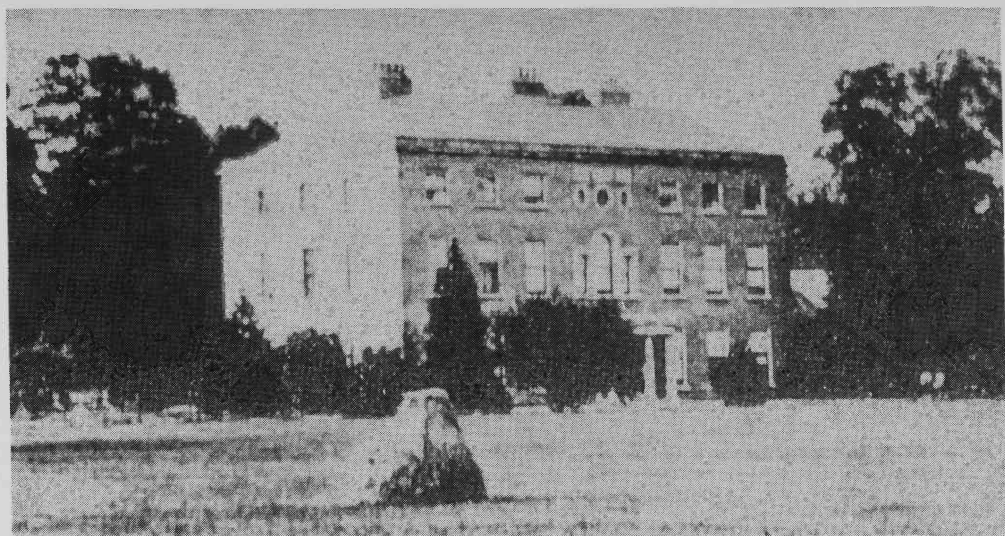
The facilities of Terenure House soon became inadequate, and the first of many extensions began. It was the three-story-block, running from the "old House" in the direction of Templeogue Road. Over the years the College has steadily grown, until in 1970 it was found necessary to fix a ceiling on further enrolment at 800 in the Senior School and 360 in the Junior School. A further extension programme took place in

1977, and was officially opened in 1981.

Terenure College Lake, which in recent years had become silted up and polluted, is now being restored through the determination of a small group of past pupils, funded by donations from the Carmelite Order, local businesses and past pupils, plus a grant from the National Lottery. The aim is to retain the natural setting of the lake while providing pathways, benches and a pebble beach by the lakeshore. The lake will be stocked with minnow and then trout, and it will also be used for amateur rowing. The finished project will be a welcome amenity for the school and local community.



Terenure, the Seat of Frederick Bourne, Esq.



Fortfield House

Fortfield House, which took its name from the "tasteless" fort erected on the lawn, was built in 1785 by Barry Yelverton, Chief Baron of the Irish Exchequer and first Viscount Avonmore, who was one of the greatest orators of his day at the Irish Bar.

The walls of the House displayed the work of the best artists and artisans working in Dublin at the time, and its drawing-room was said to be the largest in Dublin. The beautifully laid out grounds which surrounded the house had as their centre-piece a large ornamental lake.

Lord Avonmore died in 1805 and is buried in Rathfarnham Graveyard. His monument can be seen in Rathfarnham Parish Church. Long after they sold Fortfield, the Avonmores continued to have burial rights in Rathfarnham

Churchyard. The Shaws of Bushy Park also had a plot. Fortfield was then sold to John, the Lord Clanmorris, and was demised by him in 1811 to Sir William McMahon, sometime Master of the Rolls.

In 1858 the estate was purchased by the Right Hon. John Hatchell. The property remained in the Perrin-Hatchell family until the death in 1929 of Miss Margaret Perrin. In her will, dated May 6th 1929, Miss Perrin left all her estate to George Hatchell of Tanganyika. She expressed the wish that *"without imposing any obligation on him to do so" ... "the said George Hatchell shall after my death reside at Fortfield and that he shall take the name of Perrin Hatchell."* Whatever George Hatchell did about this bequest, the house was demolished in 1934, and the site is now partly covered by the houses of Fortfield Road, Park, Drive and Grove.



Cypress Grove House

This house was built about 1740 by someone named Paine, about whom little is known. It is a typical Irish Country House of the period, so called because of some fine old Cypress trees in the grounds and is described in Ball's "History of the County of Dublin."

The house has had many distinguished owners and tenants -

c.1750 Sir Wm. Cooper, M.P. for Hillsborough, Co. Down (in Parliament in College Green) and one of the Judges in the Court of Chancery. At that time there was no barrier to Judges sitting in Parliament.

c.1761 Dowager Countess of Clanbrassil.

c.1795 Viscount Jocelyn (her grandson, afterwards 2nd Earl of Roden)

At various times during the 19th century:-

The Orr Family (merchants), Duffys of Ballsbridge, Master Ellis.

c.1890 The King Family.

c.1917 George Spencer, J.P.

c.1919/26 Irish College of Gardening for Women.

c.1930/55 The Walshe Family.

c.1956/61 Gallaghers.

c.1961 The White Fathers (Missionaries of Africa) who are still in occupation.

Cypress Grove has an interesting history. During Viscount Jocelyn's time it was attacked by robbers one night when one of his sons happened to be home on leave from the Royal Navy. Lieut. Jocelyn drew his sword and wounded one of the robbers in the head and arm. A man was arrested and brought before Major Sirr but Jocelyn could not identify him. On examination, however, sword cuts were found on his head and arm. He saved his life by informing on his accomplices and also confessed they had committed the great robbery in Dublin Castle in December 1794.

A copy of a Census of Ireland form relating to the King family shows that on the night of Sunday 31st March 1901 the parents, their daughter Agnes, two visitors named Hooper, a Cook, Parlour-Maid and a Lady's Maid were in Cypress Grove House. In the column headed "Education" the head of the household is instructed to indicate whether the occupants can "Read & Write", can "Read" only, or "Cannot

Read". All seven people are entered as having the ability to "Read & Write".

Mr. Chas King's profession is given as "J.P. for Co. Dublin", his fourteen year old daughter's as "Scholar," while Mrs. King's and Mr. & Mrs. Hoopers is given as "Nil".

The Irish College of Gardening for Women (Recognised by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland) was first set up in April 1916 in Meeanee in Terenure. It was conducted in Cypress Grove (purchased for about £5000) from 1919 until 1926. The fees for Resident Students were "from 85 guineas per annum", Non-Resident "Fifteen guineas per annum." Resident students were required to "*bring their own bed-linen and towels and to pay for their washing.*"

Each student was required to "*provide herself with a spade, digging-fork, rake, hoe, trowel, a good pruning-knife, pocket-lens, notebook and laboratory exercise book*". Examinations were held annually and certificates awarded.

Miss Roisin Walsh (of the Walsh family above) was the first woman to become Chief Librarian for the city of Dublin.





Kimmage Manor, former Seat of the Shaw Family

Kimmage Manor

Sir Robert Shaw of Bushy Park died in 1869 and was succeeded by his brother Frederick (1799 - 1876). Frederick was educated at Trinity College, Dublin and Oxford. Called to the Bar in 1822, he became Recorder of Dublin in 1830 at the early age of 31, a position he held for 46 years. Whitehall Road was originally known as Recorder's Road after Sir Frederick, and the name is still retained in the Irish Form - Bothar an Racardair.

Sir Frederick built Kimmage Manor on the banks of the old Dublin Watercourse. It is a beautiful building of Tudor Style. The windows, doorways and interior design are all typical of Elizabethan architecture.

Sir Frederick had five sons and three daughters. His second son served in Mauritius, and in 1848 he met and married Marie, the youngest of the daughters of M. de Fontaine, who had retained his official position as Governor of the Island when it was transferred to Gt. Britain in 1814. General Shaw was stationed in Woolwich, but in May each year the family moved to Kimmage and remained there until October. During the Crimean War, in which General Shaw served with distinction, the Shaw children lived entirely at Kimmage Manor. Flora, born in December 1852, was the third of fourteen children. In 1874 she wrote *CASTLE BLAIR*, a

children's story which went into eight editions. The scene is Kimmage and there is a copy in the National Library. Flora met and married Sir Frederick Lugard in Maderia in June 1902. She was a life-long friend of the English writers Robert Louis Stevenson, Carlyle and Ruskin, and wrote several books. At a later date she returned to Kimmage and her childhood memories, finding it "changed in detail, unchanged in the abiding lines of hill and stream". She wrote regular newspaper letters and articles on the troubles in Ireland during the years before her death in 1929.

When Sir Frederick Shaw died in 1876 his eldest son, Robert, became 4th Bart., and moved to Bushy Park house. Kimmage house was let on a 21-year lease to Erskine Chetwode. On the expiration of the Chetwode lease in 1898, Mrs. Mary Clayton leased the house and lands in perpetuity and came to live there. In 1911 Mrs. Clayton was anxious to sell and the Irish Province of the Holy Ghost Order acquired the property. A new wing was added in 1914 and built in the same perpendicular Gothic style as the Manor, and seems today to be part of the original structure. Further extensions were built in 1929, and in 1938 the Church, which was a Chapel of Ease to Crumlin Parish was officially opened. It is now a Parish Church in its own right.

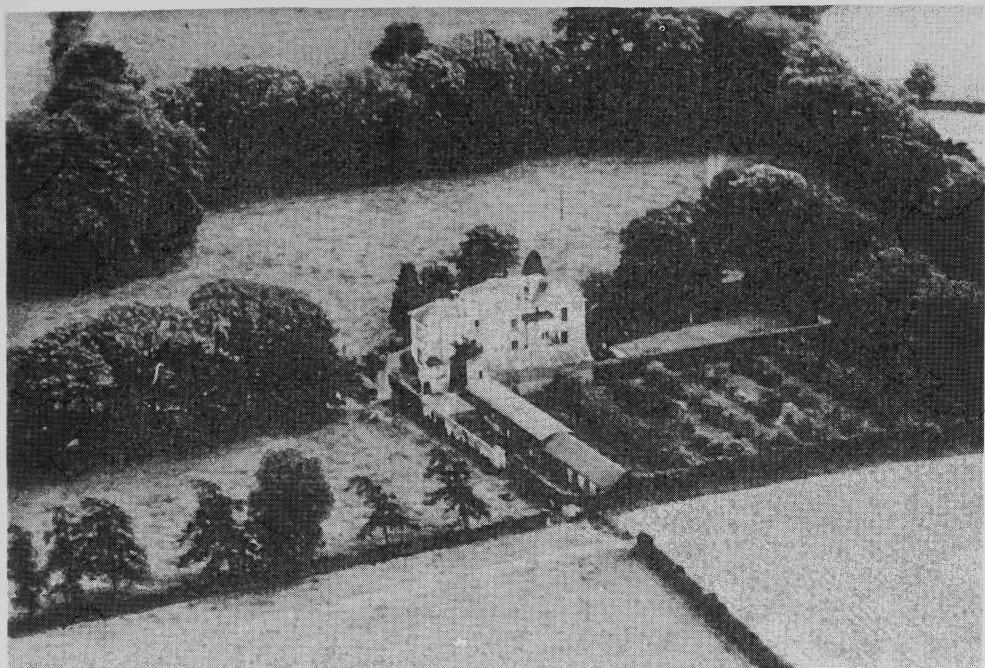
When the property was first acquired by the Holy Ghost Fathers, an entrance of green laneways stretching as far down as Greenlea led to the belief that, in fact, the original front entrance of Kimmage Manor was not as we know it on Whitehall Road, but, rather, as far down as the Presentation Convent in Terenure. Closer examination of the existing front entrance will add credence to this surmise.

In the 1960's, at the request of the then Archbishop of Dublin, Very Reverend Dr. J. C. McQuaid, Kimmage Manor Seminarian College made part of its farmland available for the building of a school to meet the requirements of a growing neighbourhood with a large school-going population.

Templeogue College opened its doors in September, 1966 to admit 42 pupils. The Headmaster was Fr. John Horgan, C.S.Sp. The only other members of the staff were Mr. John McCormack and Fr. N. O'Meara, C.S.Sp. At that time the present road in front of the College did not exist. Fields stretched all around, and the school playing fields with 5 pitches were immediately in front of the school, where St Mary's Rugby Club stands to-day.

The College has grown steadily over the years, and now has approximately 620 pupils with a staff of over 40. The headmaster is Mr. Ray Kennedy.





Aerial view of Willington House - now demolished. St. MacDara's Community College now stands on this site.
(Photograph courtesy Muriel McGuinness)

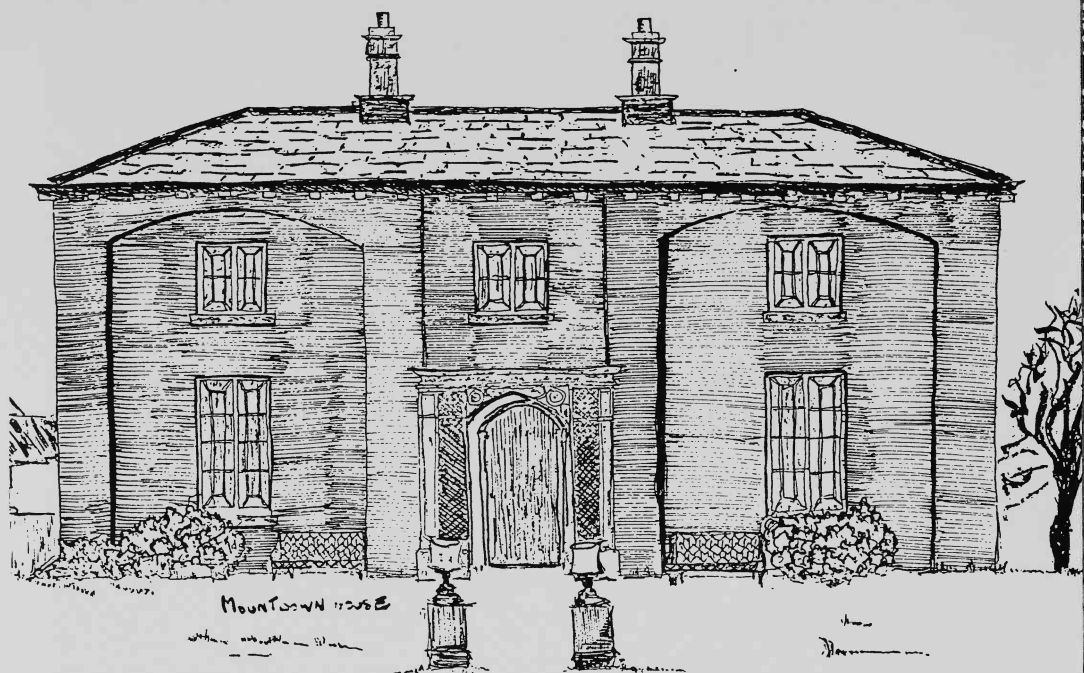
Willington House

Willington House was one of several houses located on Wellington Lane. It was only demolished in the 70's to make way for modern development. This house was built before 1760. It was registered to a Henry O'Connor on March 12th 1914. In 1922 John Kennedy became the new owner and his family remained there for almost 40 years. The last family to reside there was that of Count Mearveltdt, who renamed it 'Templeogue Stud' and raised and stabled some fine horses there, one of which became very successful. This was a horse called Pampalina. It won the award for the best two year old of 1966.

The following year Pampalina won the Guinness Oaks and the Golden Horseshoe.

In May 1969 Templeogue Trading & Investment Co. Ltd. acquired the property. The final change of ownership was in October 1972 when the Gallagher Group became the sole owners of the House and lands. In the subsequent development of the area St. Mac Dara's Community College was built on the very site of the old house.

The original name of Willington House has not been forgotten as the name has been included in the new housing estates built in the area.



Mountdown House

Mountdown house stood on forty-seven acres of land adjoining Kimmage Manor and Orwell House. it was occupied by the Cullen family from 1916 until 1969, when it was sold for development. Previous residents included Anna Danford (1886 to 1888); Anna Herron and Sir Robert Herron (1888 to 1895) and Thomas Franks and John Kean (1895 to 1916). There were four cottages on the land - one in the yard and three on the roadside opposite Willington cottages.

Two small rivers flowed through the property, the Tymon and the Poddle,

and the electricity for the house was supplied by a generator powered by these rivers. While the Cullens lived there they engaged in farming, mainly dairy farming and cattle, with some tillage. Mountdown Mill adjoined the house, but was not operated by the Cullen family.

The house was demolished in 1973 to make way for Glendown Estate and St. Mary's Rugby Club. All that now remains are two chestnut trees which stood on the Avenue leading up to the house, and these are still to be seen in Glendown.

The Watercourse

In olden times the Tymon river, rising in Tallaght, flowed eastward to the Whitehall Road, where it then became the Poddle River. This river, which eventually flowed to the Mount Argus/Mount Jerome area and on to Blackpitts and St. Patricks Cathedral around the old city walls, through Dublin Castle, discharged at a point downstream of the new Grattan Bridge.

In about 1176 two ecclesiastical establishments were built - St. Patricks Cathedral and the Abbey of St. Thomas behind where now stands St. Catherine's Church in Thomas Street. In 1200 the Abbey monks, to fulfill their water needs, constructed a take-off branch from the Poddle at Mt Jerome and brought it in a circuitous route of their Liberty, and then back to the main Poddle line at the Cathedral. Rancours developed between the Abbot and the Archbishop. The monks, under royal patronage, realised that they could not with impunity impair the supply of the Archbishop's tenants, so in 1242 they devised a scheme to increase the Poddle flow. They erected the Balrothery Weir or Barrage on the dodder at Firhouse and a Watercourse was constructed to carry Dodder water to supplement the Poddle. The Watercourse ran across the fields and under the Tallaght Road, by the old churchyard at Templeogue, through the grounds of Templeogue house, and joined up with the Tymon stream at the rear of the present Whitehall Park estate. Fifty metres downstream a dividing weir was built by

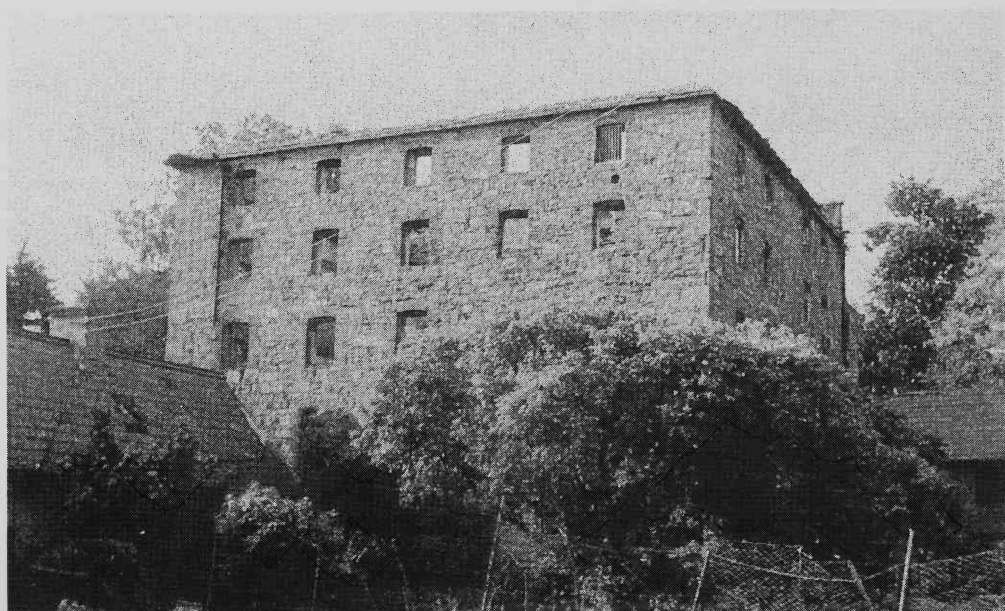
Dublin Corporation in the 1930's to divide the flow. One branch flows to Terenure College Lake via Fortfield Road and returns to the Dodder by the pond in Bushy park. The other branch flows through Kimmage Manor and crossing Kimmage Road West enters the city boundary. When it reaches Mt. Argus it is again divided by a structure known as the Tongue or the Stone Boat. Two-thirds of the water then flows via Harolds Cross to Dublin Castle and enters the Liffey at Wellington Quay. The other one-third flows via Dolphin's Barn to the old city basin near James Street.

On at least two occasions the watercourse has been used as a weapon of leverage. During the civil war between the royalists and the parliamentarians in 1649, the royalist commander, the Marquis of Ormonde, laid siege to the city of Dublin. He camped at Rathmines, which in those days was far out in the country, and cut off the water supply through the watercourse, causing great privation in the city. In spite of this stratagem, however, Ormonde was roundly defeated at the Battle of Rathmines by the Parliamentarians, who broke up the Royalist army and raised the siege of Dublin.

In the chapter on Templeogue House, the story is told of how Sir Compton Domville used possession of the Watercourse to save his nephew, Lord Santry, in 1738.



The Weir at Firhouse



The Old Mill, Templeogue

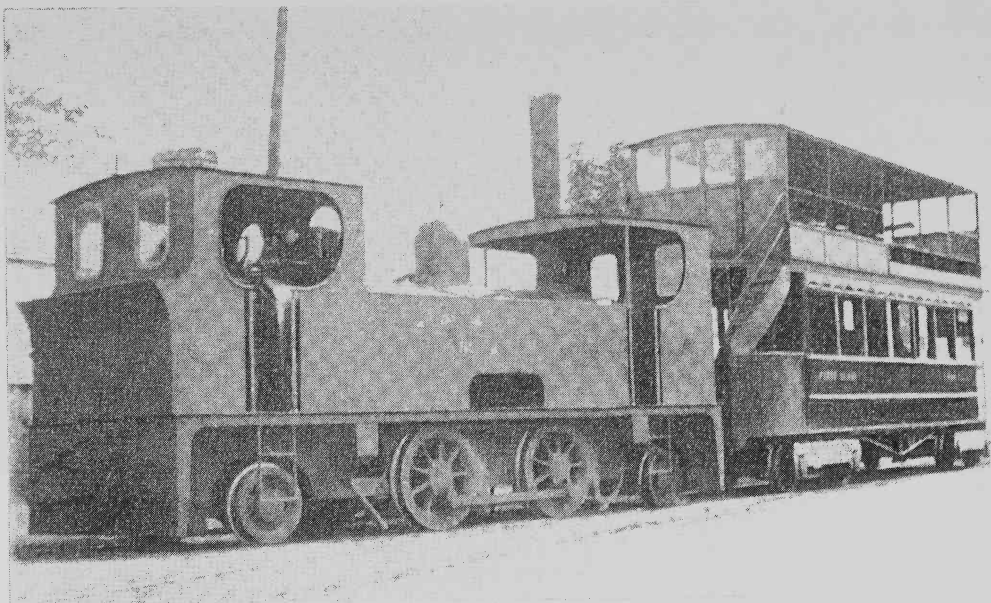


Bellavista Paper Mill

This fine stone building is part of the old paper mill at Bellavista, beyond Spawell. The mill appears to have been built by Daniel Ashworth, a currier from the City of Dublin, who leased the property from Sir Thomas Domville for 99 years at £30 per annum. In 1730 the lease passed to a Dublin paper merchant called Thomas Slater, who petitioned the House of Commons for a grant, which he soon received, of £500 for paper manufacture. In 1765, a Deed was drawn up dated

14th December, transferring the lease of the property from Thomas Slater to Edward Burroughs.

In 1803 the property was leased by William McDonnell of Lucan for 13 years for £60 per annum. It was probably his son who spent a lot of money on the mill some years later, and installed a steam engine. (Until then the mill was worked solely by water). The investment, however, didn't pay, and the mills eventually closed.



Dublin - Blessington Steam Tramway

*"The battle of Ypres was only a Sham,
Compared to the rush for the Blessington
Tram". (anon.)*

The Dublin, Blessington and Poulaphouca Steam Tramway, otherwise known as "The Steam Tram" was opened on August 1st, 1888 and closed on December 31st, 1932. The terminus was situated at the rear of the present Enterprise Centre in Terenure, and ran alongside the road, with a few crossings here and there, to Blessington. The journey of 15 miles occupied 1 hour and 25 minutes, according to the timetable, and the principal station was Templeogue, where the Company's "Works" were situated. Other stations

along the route varied from covered shelters to open-air seats.

Timetable for 1929:

Terenure Dep. 7.00 a.m.
2.35 p.m.
6.15 p.m. To Blessington.

A number of other services ran throughout the day to Tallaght and the Embankment, where water was taken. A loop at the Embankment enabled the tram to return to Terenure without using a turntable, and the loop is still used by buses.

Stations: Terenure; Templeogue;
Balrothery; Tallaght; Jobstown;

Embankment; (for Saggart and Rathcoole); Crookslings; Brittas; The Lamb; Blessington.

The original terminus at Blessington was extended to Poulaphouca on May 1st, 1895, and was worked by a separate Company, but owing to insufficient support this section was closed on September 30th, 1927.

There were a number of fatal accidents over the years, owing to the proximity of the line to the public road and to residences, especially the Templeogue Cottages where enamel signs on the gable ends warned "Beware of Trams". The line became known as "The longest graveyard in the World" and the Templeogue Inn became known as "The Morgue" because it was to these premises accident victims were brought.

The tram was affectionately known as "The Scrap-Iron Express" from the sounds of the clanking of iron and belching of steam as she negotiated the not-so-straight rails. On one occasion she ran off the rails at a slight bend at the Embankment and sledge hammers and levers had to be requisitioned to re-rail her.

The original passenger vehicles were similar to double-decked trams but had open sides which resulted in a very smoky trip when the engine was being refuelled. the engine's smoke stack was very high, and was designed to offset the smoke from the coaches, but gusts of wind thought otherwise. The upper decks were uncovered but an awning was used in wet weather.

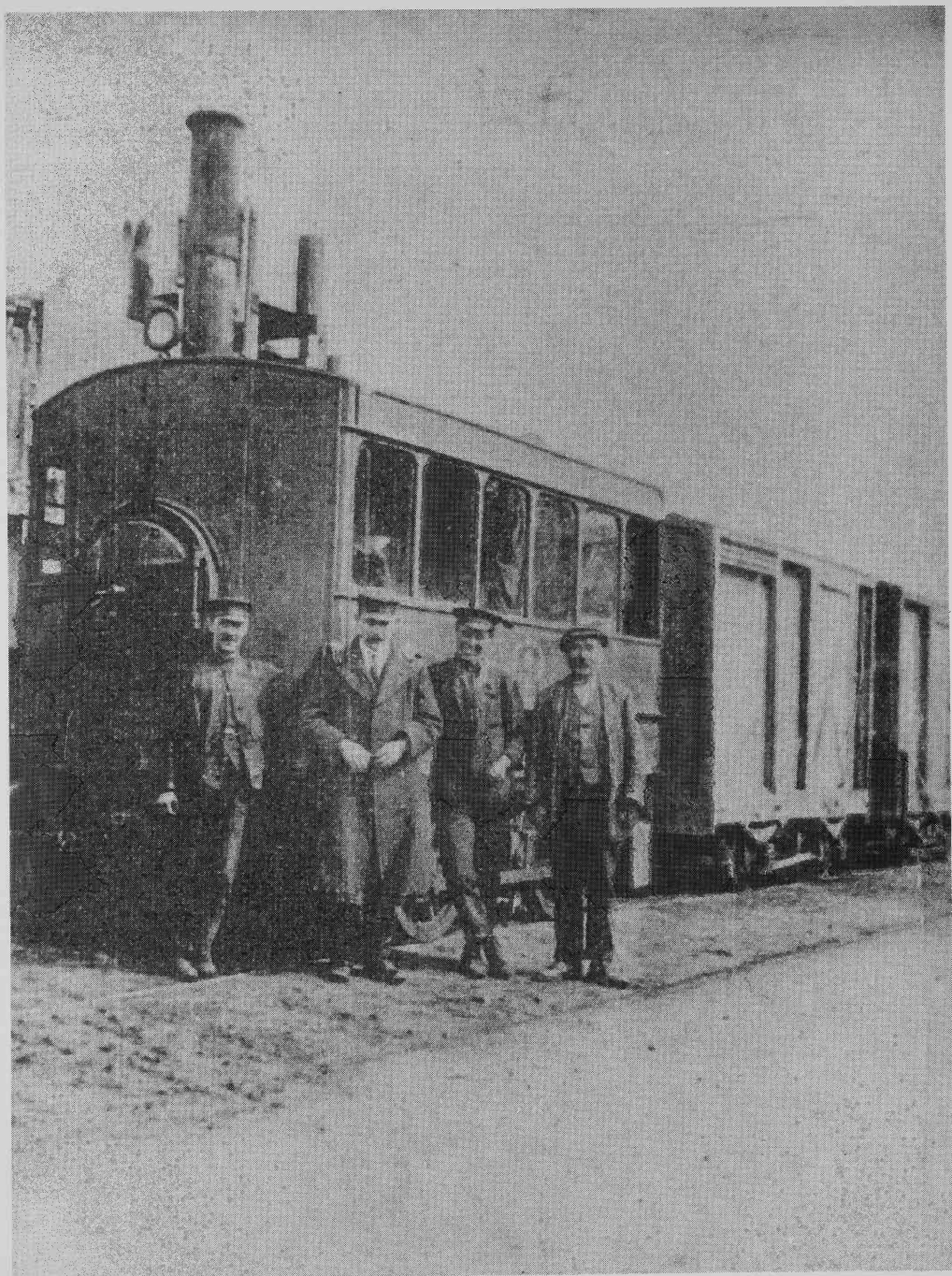
In addition to passengers a large volume of goods traffic was carried including

coal, livestock and mail and most of this traffic was taken by the Dublin United Tramways Co. by night and trans-shipped at Terenure as there was no inter-connection between the two systems.

It is interesting to note that the line never made a profit, even though a dividend of 7 to 10 per cent was envisaged in the Prospectus. The line was "Baronially guaranteed" which meant that the losses were levied on the Baronies through which the line passed.

A number of incidents occurred during the lifetime of the line, and one anecdote describes a newly-married couple who decided to spend the first day of their honeymoon on a return trip to Poulaphouca. All went well until half way home when the locomotive ran out of water and the tank had to be refilled from a well some distance away. The tram bearing the happy couple arrived at Terenure in the early hours, but the Company had them conveyed to their hotel with compliments! The Steam Tram became a very popular mode of transport for weekend and Bank Holiday jaunts when there was always a rush for seats.

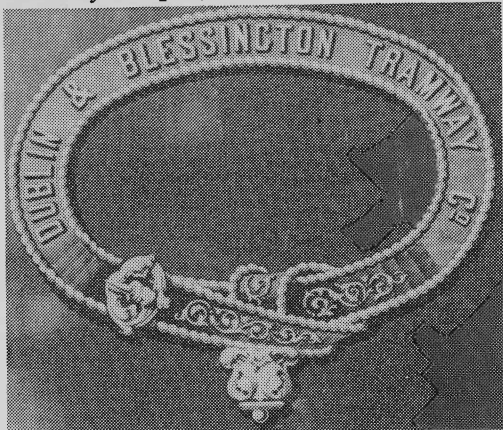
Due to the increasing use of private cars, and the introduction of the Paragon Bus service from the City centre to Poulaphouca and Ballymore Eustace in 1929, the end of the line was in sight. In an effort to survive, the Company introduced a number of converted 16 seater Ford buses but it was too late because it was one of these cars that made the final trip from Tallaght to Terenure, filled to capacity with 35 passengers, on Saturday, 31st December 1932.



*Crew of the last Blessington Steam Tram:
Left to right: Christopher (Kit) Preston, driver; Mick Ryan; Anthony Hearn; Tom Sullivan*

So ended an epoch in the history of Irish Transport and with its disappearance one of the quaintest of survivals had gone, as a sight of the Old Steam Trams up in the Dublin Mountains, with their

Tramway Company Crest



shrill whistlings, will not be easily forgotten.

A poem about the line was written by the late Barry Tynan O'Mahony, B.L. the last few lines of which appeared in 1953 in the Sunday Press and ran as follows:-

*"But yet I have a feeling, when the world's
come to an end,
That the Steam Tram will come stealing
like an old and trusted friend,
When we're standing 'round in billions
trying to get across the Styx,
And the cars are lined in millions, and
we're really in a fix,
When the buses cannot shift on, and the
traffic's all a jam,
Perhaps we'll get a lift on
THE OLD STEAM TRAM".*



The 'Little' Steam Tram

A recent addition to the village, is an attractive Clock Canopy on the front of the Templeogue Inn - the "Morgue" of Blessington Steam Tram fame (*right*). In the top of this structure a model of the "tram", complete with engine in front, runs around above the clock while a bell strikes the intervals of time (*above*).



The new Clock Tower with model Steam Tram

T H E

TEMPLE-OGE INTELLIGENCER.

----- *Nocit empty dolore voluptas.*

Horace.

THIS is now the fourth time I have sat down to give the fair *Gloriana* Satisfaction, in that part of her Inquiry, which relates to Happiness in general; for in the three first Papers on that Subject, Religion was made so great an Ingredient of general Happiness, that upon reading them over, I thought they were too like Sermons, to be agreeable to my polite Readers; and I lay'd them by for a Country Parson of my Acquaintance, who may collect some Hints from them, which may prove useful enough for his Congregation; but my falling so often and so insensibly into that way of thinking, makes me suspect, however, that there may be something more than ordinary in it; and I recommend to my Readers to consider with themselves, what Grounds there may be for my Conjecture. I shall take care however in the following Discourse, to make as few Mentions of Religion as possible, having resolved from the Beginning against Preaching; so that polite Reader, you may venture to proceed.

Every honest Man has some Rule or other to go by: With some it is Religion, with others moral Honesty; but whosoever it be the one or the other, Remorse always follows and transgresses it; and as that is a mental Evil, it will run up when the Pleasure is over, and will by its

A

Duration

1728



The Old Church at Templeogue

This ancient Church at the corner of Wellington Lane is probably a 15th century building on the site of an earlier Church. It was in ruins by 1615.

Templeogue in 'The Emergency'

In 1940 Villa Konstanz in Templeogue was occupied by 43-year old Stephen Carroll Held, who lived there with his mother, step-father, and a Mrs. Hall and a child. Held was the adopted son of a German, Michael Held, who had emigrated to Ireland about 1890 and married an Irish woman. He was a member of the firm of Michael Held and Sons Ltd., who carried on business as sheet metal workers at 72 Francis Street.

In April 1940 Stephen Held visited Germany on behalf of the I.R.A., bringing with him a plan for the invasion of Ireland by the Germans. While there he met Hermann Goertz, who later parachuted into Ireland, and while on the run from the authorities stayed in Villa Konstanz. Of his stay in Held's house Goertz wrote "I was treated with true Irish hospitality". Goertz had a meeting with Stephen Hayes, Chief of Staff of the I.R.A. in Villa Konstanz.

Then, on May 22nd 1941, disaster struck. At 10.20 p.m. police cars suddenly stopped outside the house and a posse of guards and detectives thronged in and began to search the house from top to bottom. It is not known why the police chose to visit Held's house at this particular time - a routine search or a tip-off? When the police arrived Goertz ran into the garden and escaped into the surrounding countryside. Held, who was not in the house at the time, was arrested when he returned at 1.40 a.m. on foot.

Goertz managed to stay at liberty until November 1941, when he was arrested and spent the rest of the war in detention. In 1947, to avoid deportation back to Germany, Goertz committed suicide by taking poison. He was buried in Dean's Grange cemetery, but his remains were later moved to the German Cemetery in Glencree where they now rest.

Stephen Held was tried and sent to prison. At his trial the Court was told of the discovery by the police, in a locked room in his house, of an attache case containing military documents; a wireless transmitter; a used parachute of unknown type and a box containing 20,000 U.S. dollars.

Stephen Carroll Held was released from prison in 1946, and in 1966 or 1967 left Ireland for the United States.

Bombs

Fifty years ago Templeogue was not the thriving, busy, built-up district that it is today, but a quiet rural village surrounded by green fields. Quiet as it was, it did not escape the terrors of war. On the morning of Thursday, January 2nd, 1941 German bombs fell on nearby Rathdown Park and Lavarna Grove.

The headlines in the Irish Press of January 3rd told of "Thrilling Rescue Scenes in Dublin Suburbs" and "Narrow Escapes in Shattered Houses". They



The Village c. 1960

spoke of the general appreciation which was shown of the speed and efficiency of Dublin Fire Brigade, who were on the scene in five minutes.

The Irish Times of the same date wrote as follows:

"Two families were bombed out of their homes and into the snow-covered streets at 6.15 a.m. yesterday, when a low flying plane dropped two 500lb. bombs in Rathdown Park, and two more on a waste ground near Kimmage Cross.

The third bomb ... fell about half a mile from Rathdown Park at Lavarna Grove, where a number of new houses have been built, and others are in the couse of construction ... Most of the force of the explosion went into the air, and this accounted for the fact that the houses far away received greater damage than those nearest the crater. Windows were

smashed in many houses, and the occupants were busy filling up gaps in the doors and windows with cardboard. Roofs were also damaged, in at least two instances severely, and debris fell through the ceiling into the bedrooms. Several people had narrow escapes from injury."

The most badly damaged houses were numbers 25 and 27 Lavarna Grove.

The papers listed the various public figures who visited the scene of the bombings, including the Most Rev. John Charles McQuaid, Archbishop of Dublin, An Taoiseach, Mr. de Valera, and the famous Dublin figure "Alfie" Byrne (Alderman A. Byrne T.D.)

This was the same night that bombs were dropped on the South Circular Rd., and 5 months before the North Strand Bombing.

The Templeogue Tennis Club

The history of the Templeogue Tennis Club is intimately connected with that of the adjoining Templeogue Inn, as the land on which the Tennis Club was built and developed was part of the land owned by the Templeogue Inn. In 1906 when Mr. Ned Keating bought the Templeogue Inn, he laid out a tennis court on one of the more level patches of the adjoining fields. This was the very beginnings of what is now known as the Templeogue Tennis Club. In 1908 a second court was laid out and it became a mini tennis club. This continued until 1914 when the secretary, Mr. Paddy O'Byrne, joined the army. In an effort to re-start the club, a meeting was held in the Templeogue Inn on 20th May 1917. Thirteen people attended:

Pat Shortt, the last President of the old club

Chriss Shortt

Margaret Shortt

Ned Keating

John Keating

Mr. 'Ram' Molloy

Mrs. Molloy

Dennis Nugent

David Riordan

Miss Linda Murphy

Miss Lizzie Murphy

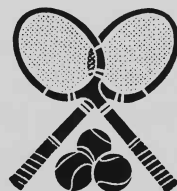
Paddy O'Byrne

Annie O'Byrne

As a result of this meeting, the Templeogue Tennis Club was born. In 1919 the first attempt at providing a shelter was made. This was done by acquiring a large wooden case of the type in which motor cars were imported

and roughly converting it into a "kitchen" in which the ladies boiled kettles of water on primus stoves for the Saturday afternoon teas. Sunday tennis was quite unheard of at that time. In 1922 a pavilion was erected - a basic wooden shell but of commodious dimensions which provided accommodation but very few facilities. This was replaced in 1935 by a more modern pavilion at a cost of £375. The night of the Ireland - England rugby international of that year was chosen for a gala opening dance which attracted a crowd of over 1,000. 1979 saw the replacement of the grass courts by all-weather porous concrete courts - all flood-lit. With the playing surfaces up-graded, the club turned its attention to planning a new pavilion. Building commenced in 1984 and the resulting clubhouse is a building the members are justifiably proud of.

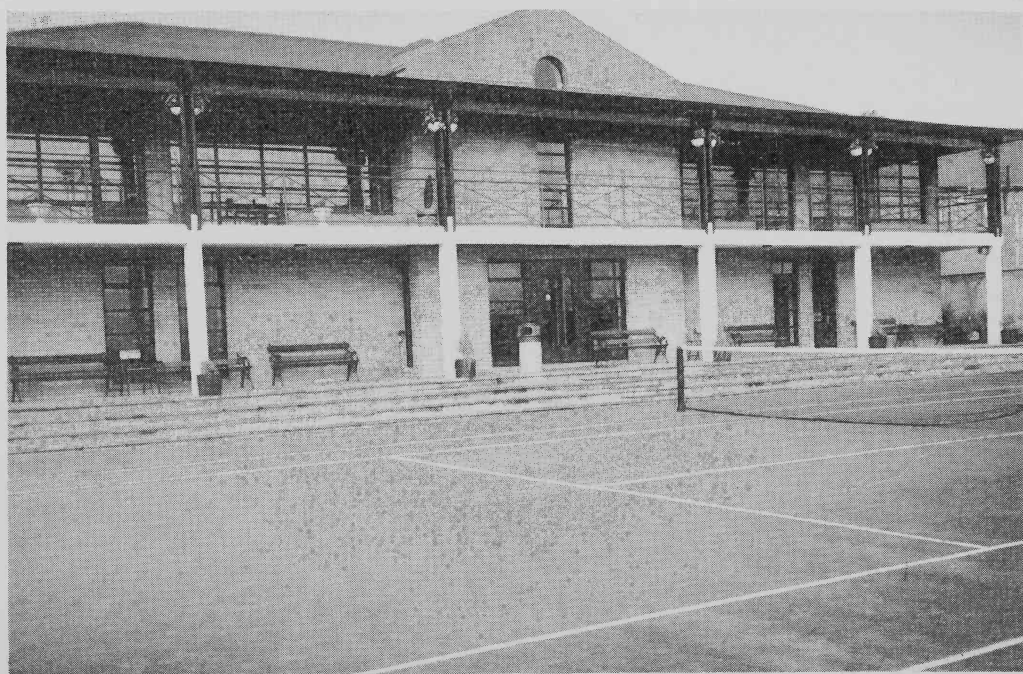
The Templeogue Tennis Club has been central to the sporting and recreational life of the village and over the years, has attracted international tennis stars as well as top Irish players.



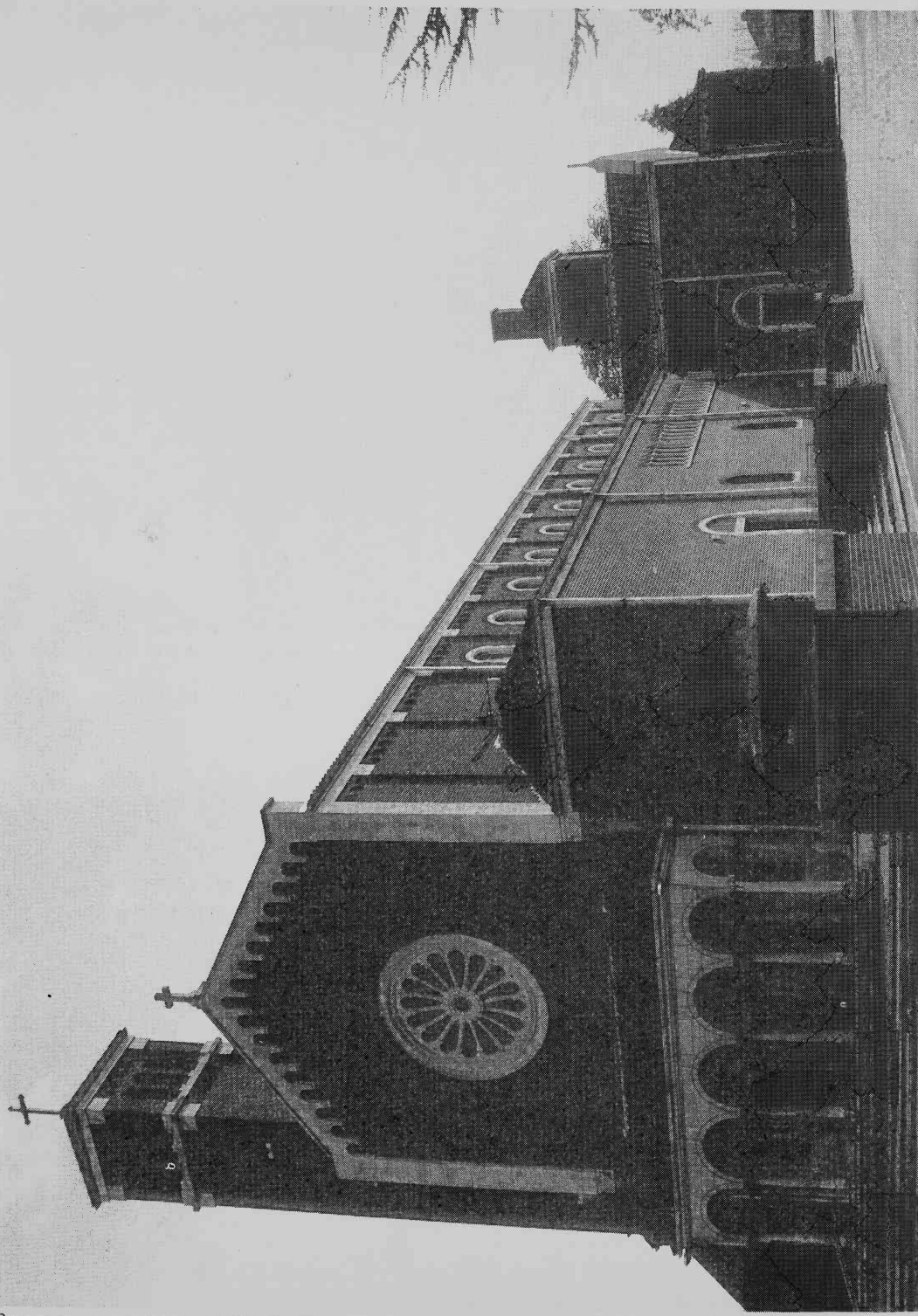


Templeogue Tennis Club, Pavilion built in 1935.

(Photograph courtesy Neil Donnellan)



Templeogue Tennis Club, new Pavilion built in 1985.





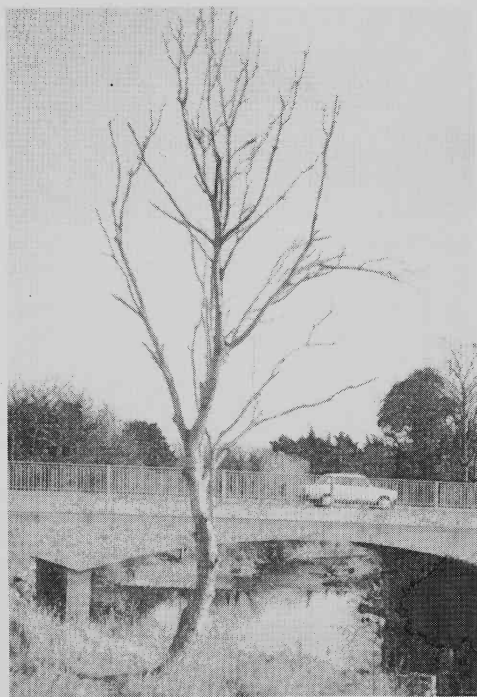
Above: Riverside Cottages

Left: ST. PIUS X CHURCH

The modern Church of St. Pius X, Templeogue was commissioned by Canon Joseph Union of Terenure Parish who was entrusted with this task by the Archbishop of Dublin, Dr. John Charles McQuaid. This was the first Church designed by M. J. Griffith, M.R.I.A. who was influenced by the architecture of two Basilican Roman Churches built in 380 a.d. and 432 a.d.

ST. PIUS X PRIMARY SCHOOLS

The St. Pius X Primary Schools had their humble beginnings in six pre-fabricated buildings on grounds adjoining the Church. On 15th February 1965 they opened with 176 children. Six years later on 19th January 1971 the new Primary Schools were officially opened at Fortfield Park. On that day there were 16 classrooms, 28 teachers and 1,130 children.



Above: Legend has it that back in the 1800's a man was hanged from a tree near Templeogue Bridge for sheep stealing. From that day to this the tree has been barren. Could this be the tree ?



The Village Pump.



Left to Right: Owen Walker, Mary Walker, Tom Walker, Sean Doyle. Born and reared in Riverside Cottages, they have lived all their lives in Templeogue and as children, travelled to school on the Steam Tram.

Where are they now . . . ?



The first pupils of Our Lady's School - September, 1953.

The first Confirmation - St. Pius X Boys National School, 1968.





The first "Debs" - St. MacDara's Community College, 1987.

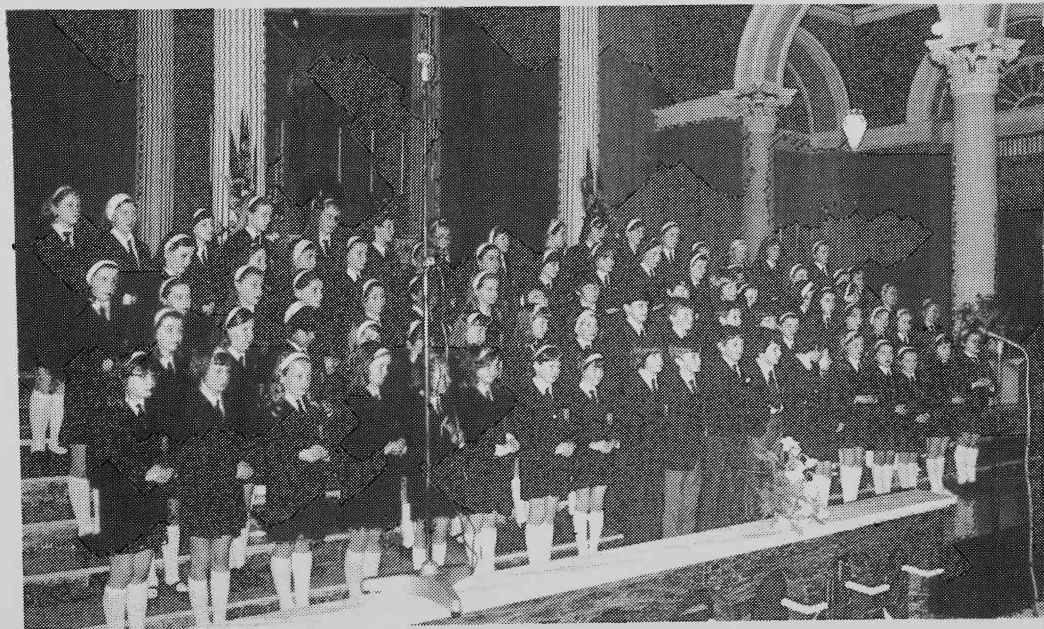
The First Confirmation - St. Pius X Girls National School, 1968.





First Leaving Certificate - Templeogue College, 1971.

St. Pius X School Choir 1975.



Templeogue Personalities

Austin Clarke

1896/1974

Austin Clarke was born at 83 Manor Street, Dublin on 9th May 1896. He was educated at Belvedere College and University College Dublin where he came under the influence of Douglas Hyde and developed an enthusiasm for Irish Literature and Legend. He was appointed Lecturer in English at University College in succession to Thomas McDonagh in 1916.

Though he has written distinguished novels, verse plays and a remarkable Autobiography - "Twice Round the Black Church" - his fame is solidly grounded in his Lyric Poetry, notably such volumes as "Night and Morning" 1938, "Ancient Light" 1956 and "Flight to Africa" 1963.

Austin Clarke was a profoundly serious Poet, who in his finer lyrics and satires provided a most penetrating commentary on the social and religious development of his Country. Like every Irish writer of his generation his work was deeply affected by public events and circumstances of the environment. His Poetry was written within the shadow of Ireland's past. His main theme was what he called "the drama of racial consciousness" and in his later Poetry he explored the civil and religious tensions of modern Irish Society with special reference to their source in history. His later verse became increasingly satirical.

The published works of Austin Clarke include:

Autobiographies:

"Twice Round the Black Church" 1962
"A Penny in the Clouds" 1968

Poems:

"The Planters Daughter"
"The Lost Heifer"
"Midnight in Templeogue"
"Right of Way"
"Cypress Grove"

Plays:

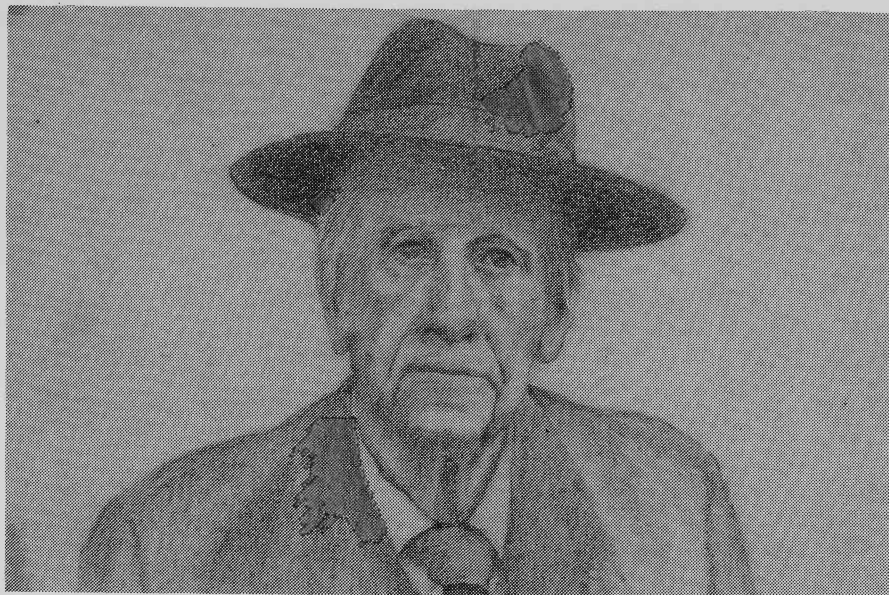
"The Son of Learning"
"As the Crow Flies"
"The Moment next to Nothing"

In three of his poems Austin Clarke described the situation in Templeogue in the early 1960's. "Midnight in Templeogue" mentions "*Young wives... near the Bridge*" and records that Templeogue House is without a Lodge now. In "Right of Way" the Poet complains that he can no longer walk along the Dodder behind Firhouse Road because of the new houses: "*... Small owners have fenced off the right of way, mere inches, no wider than their graves ... outlawed by greed, I look down from the Bridge ...*" Notice how in both poems he spells 'bridge' with a capital B - it must have meant a lot to him. The most poignant of these poems is "Cypress Grove" which describes the development of that Estate:

Cypress Grove

*"...As early, the black fellow beaking along the Dodder,
Spies in a reedy pool the water-hen
Gliding behind the cress, a constant nodder,
Then mantles across the river to the fields,
The strippers half-asleep, where once the Spa
At Templeogue was fashionable, now wheel-less.
Hundreds of pigeons clap up from Cheeverstown,
Sink down again into the damp of the shaw.
He flies two miles by a gorse-budded glen
To a forgotten sandpit or a quarry
That leads the sheep to nowhere like a corrie,
Ironwork scraps, our twisted thoughts, unshacked,
Turns, seeing a single streak between the grass-mounds,
The paven conduit with an inch of ripple
That Normans drank in Dublin, centuries
Ago, provinces at their shaven lips.
It brims a stock-pond, hurries underground
By cellerage of an eighteenth-century mansion.*

*The sewered city with a rump of suburbs
Has reached the pillard gate in its expansion,
Design of the daffodils, the urns disturbed by
Air-scrooging builders, men who buy and sell fast,
One Gallagher bought the estate. Now concrete-mixers
Vomit new villas; builder, they say, from Belfast
With his surveyors turning down the oil wicks.
The shadow is going out from Cypress Grove,
The solemn branches echoing our groan,
Where open carriages, barouches, drove;
Walnut, rare corktree, torn up by machine.
I hear the shrills of the electric saw
Lopping the shelter, unsapping the winter-green
For wook-yards, miss at breakfast time the cawing
Of local rooks I stare:
Elegant past blown out like a torchere....."*



Austin Clarke

(Drawing by Benvon Ward)

In 1922 Austin Clarke went to England where he stayed for fifteen years. In 1973 he returned with this wife and two children and took up residence in a house beside Templeogue Bridge. From his writing it is obvious that he loved and appreciated the peace and quiet of this part of Dublin: *".... The garden at Templeogue was a joyful surprise to me, for Scotch firs surrounded the upper and lower lawns, and there were many other trees; a chestnut, silver birch, copper beech, sycamore, elm, rowan and, at the south-west corner, a great Lombardy poplar"*. Around the place were a few large estates including Templeogue House, where Thackeray had dined with Lever. We were, in fact, in the green belt, and seemed to be safe from the speculative builders. The village of Templeogue was as yet unspoiled, and the first stop of the old mail coaches was still there opposite the one public house, which was known grimly as The Morgue,

for in the time of the steam tram the bodies of the unfortunate victims who had slept unwisely on the roadside rails were brought there. We had even a village philosopher who leaned over his grocery counter and discoursed on the affairs of the world. Every morning I hurried to the Bridge, which had been built in 1798..."

In 1964 Austin Clarke received the Denis Devlin Award for Poetry. In 1966 an Honorary D. Litt was conferred on him by Trinity College and in 1972 he received the American Irish Foundation Literary Award.

Austin Clarke died on 19th March 1974 at his home in Templeogue. He didn't live to see the vandalism of his own home or the re-construction of his beloved Bridge. Those of us to whom he was a familiar sight in the district might well fancy that his Spirit still moves by the river.



Charles Lever

Charles Lever was born in Dublin 1806, in a house the site of which is somewhere under Connolly Station. His father was English, and worked on the construction of the Custom House with Gandon.

Charles spent most of his schooldays at Wright's Academy at 2 Great Denmark Street, where he was remembered as a boy who preferred reading romances than his text books, but he never suffered academically because of this. He also learned to fence and dance in a most agile way. He studied at Trinity College, gaining a B.A. and going on to become a Doctor. As a young man he fell in love with Miss Kate Baker of Sir John Rogersons Quay, whom he later married.

It was in the years after his marriage that he came to live in Templeogue House, and was a familiar figure riding around the neighbourhood with his children - Julia, Charley and Pussy - who were nicknamed "the Leverets". He rarely went into the city but entertained

lavishly at home, having as guests such notables a Isaac Butt and Thackeray, who was writing his "Irish Sketch Book", and who was impressed by the agreeable atmosphere at Templeogue. Another guest was Sir William Wilde, the father of Oscar.

As well as the diversions of dinner parties and whist parties, which often lasted all night and on into the following day, Lever spent many nights working in his booklined "snuggery". Among the books he wrote are "Jack Hinton", "Harry Lorrequer", "Fortunes of Glencore", etc., etc.

"Chateau de Templeogue" was the name Charles Lever liked to give to his residence, and in those days the grounds certainly must have made some claim to that title. There was an old Dutch waterfall, a series of garden grottoes, and extensive courtyards enclosed by high walls and massive gate piers. There were terraced walks and sweeping paths.

On leaving Templeogue, Lever rented Oatlands in Stillorgan, but finally left Ireland for good, becoming among other things Consul at Trieste. He made a number of visits home and always said it was on these occasions that he was happiest. He died in Trieste and is buried in the English Cemetery there.

John McCann

John McCann was born on 17th June 1905 in Raymond Street Dublin. He was educated at Grantham Street National School and Christian Brothers, Synge Street. At the age of 14 years he obtained an Apprenticeship in Walkers



John McCann - in O'Connell Street, June 1939 on the day he was elected T.D.

of Rathmines but this lasted only a short time as his former teacher - Br. Duggan - advised his parents that John should apply for a Scholarship at the Technical School. This was a lucky break for the young student as he duly applied for and won a Scholarship and subsequently qualified as an Engineer. While still a student at Bolton Street John helped to form "E" Company 2nd Battalion Fianna Eireann. In the Civil War he

served in "H" Company Third Battalion I.R.A. He was a founder member of Fianna Fail and was elected as T.D. for Dublin South in 1939. He became an Alderman on Dublin City Council in 1944. He was elected as Lord Mayor of Dublin in 1946/47 and later served for a second term 1964/65.

John McCann was a distinguished Playwright and Author. He wrote eight plays:

"Twenty Years A-Wooing"

"Give me a bed of Roses"

"Put a Beggar on Horseback"

"It can't go on Forever"

"Blood is thicker than Water"

"I know where I'm Going"

"Early and Often"

"A Jew called Sammy"

all of which were produced by the Abbey Theatre Company and subsequently many of them were produced by Theatrical Companies all over Ireland. As a Journalist his special interest was History and he contributed many articles on this topic to various Newspapers and Journals throughout the country.

As a member of Dublin Corporation, John was instrumental in saving the Olympia Theatre from demolition and in recognition of this, the Management dedicated Box 3 to him - complete with Brass Plate.

John's advice to young people - "Join a Public Library".

John McCann resided at No. 68 Fortfield Road with his wife and family. He died in February 1980. The theatrical association has continued through his son, Donal McCann, the well-known actor.

Dr. George Otto Simms

George Otto Simms was born in 1910 in a Dublin Nursing Home. He was the third boy in the family and there was later a young sister. His father John, a solicitor, had been brought up in Strabane and retained a practice there when he moved to Lifford, Co. Donegal, on his marriage in 1903.

His mother, Otilie Stange, was an Australian-born German, Otto Georg being the name of her father. When the family returned to Europe, Otilie was eventually sent to school in England and they lived part of the year in London. She was fluent in both English and German from the beginning.

The Simms home was a country house, Combermore, in Lifford and was a happy place for the children to grow up in. The family were active members of the Church of Ireland and mixed readily with the local community. While on holiday in Glencolumbkille, George became interested in the Irish language and this interest was encouraged by his father, himself an enthusiastic Irish speaker. The love of the language remained with the son all his life.

Following his schooling in England, George Simms returned to Trinity College, Dublin, in 1929 and after a distinguished academic career, entered the Ministry of the Church of Ireland. In 1940 he found himself again at Trinity, this time as Dean of Residence and was also appointed Chaplain/Secretary of the Church of Ireland Teacher Training College in Kildare Street.

Archbishop Barton officiated at the marriage of George Simms to Mercy

Gwynn in Rathfarnham Parish Church in September 1941. They had both been students at Trinity and had a common background. George had worked on the mixed Gospel text of the Book of Kells for the Swiss facsimile edition by Ursgraf Verlag and for his work in this connection was awarded a Ph.D. in 1950.

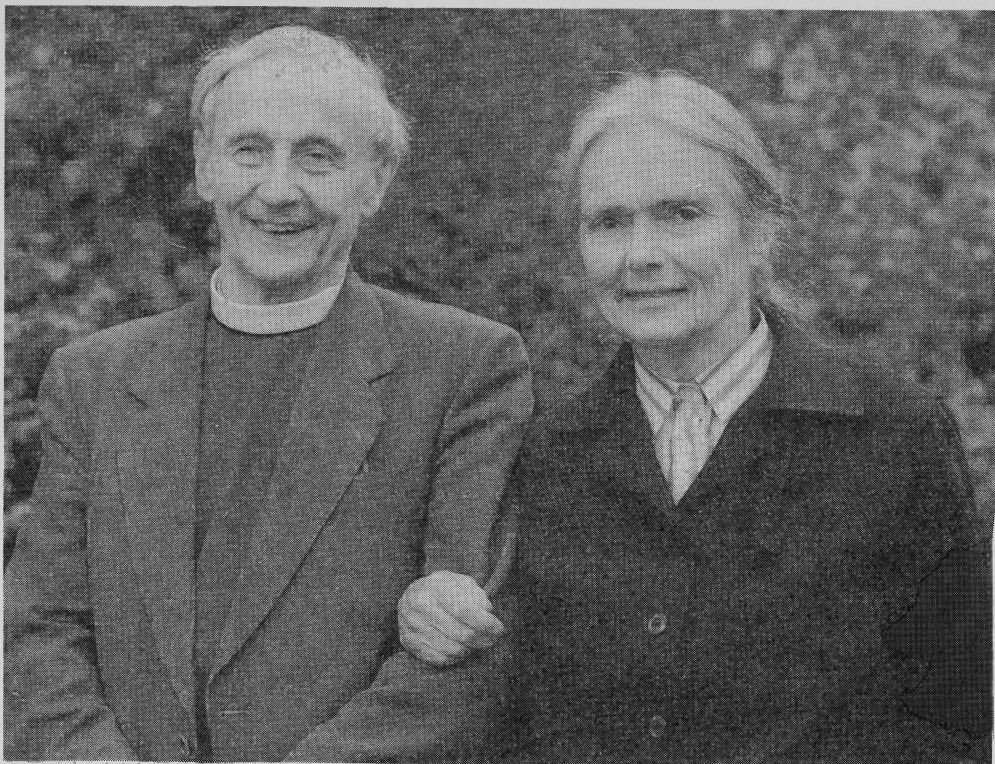
In 1952 he was appointed Dean of Cork and when Bishop Hearn died suddenly in July of that year, George Simms was chosen to succeed him. Consecrated on the 28th of October as Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, at the age of 42, he was considered very young for the office!

The Simms family had been four years in Cork when he succeeded Bishop Barton as Archbishop of Dublin and was enthroned in Christ Church Cathedral in January, 1959.

Back in the capital city, the archbishop's life was a busy one and fortunately he had a good store of energy to cope with his duties. Dear to his heart was ecumenism for which he worked tirelessly. Always a builder of bridges, he took as appropriate, Hilaire Belloc's phrase:

"small beginnings, out to undiscovered ends".

In 1969 there was a further move for the Simms family when he became Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland. On leaving Dublin he said "Dublin has been wonderful to me and I've been tremendously happy here" In the troubled times of his new ministry in



Dr. and Mrs. Simms

Armagh, he again sought to build bridges and was accessible to all. In the midst of tragic circumstances he still saw hope. This was his mission until 1980 when he decided to retire, at the age of 70.

George Simms was a prolific writer. He had a weekly column in the *Irish Times* (started in 1953), potted biographies, historical works, papers on spiritual subjects, lectures for conferences etc. and the study of Irish Illuminated Manuscripts. His special study was, of course, *The Book of Kells*. His lectures on it made the illustrations *come alive* for the audience.

He was a frequent broadcaster on radio,

of devotional talks and also scripted and presented programmes relating to Celtic Scribes, Manuscripts etc., on television.

On retirement, Dr. and Mrs. Simms came back to Dublin to live in Templeogue. There was now time for relaxation and to enjoy their children (three sons and two daughters) and grandchildren. He became a familiar figure in the neighbourhood and the lectures on the Book of Kells continued to be enjoyed by audiences for several years. A video is now available.

George Otto Simms died in November 1991; a man of deep spirituality, bishop, ecumenist and writer, his passing mourned by all sections of the community.

District Justice

Kenneth Reddin

Kenneth Sheils Reddin lived in Ashleaf, one of a pair of fine Georgian houses in Templeogue village, both of which have since been demolished.

He was born in Dublin in 1895, and was educated in St. Enda's under Padraig Pearse, and at Belvedere and Clongowes Wood Colleges. He attended University College Dublin. An active worker for Sinn fein and the Gaelic League, he took part in the 1916 Rising, and was deported to Stafford Jail.

Kenneth Reddin took the Incorporated Law Society's Gold Medal for Composition in 1916, and Honours Solicitors Final Examination in 1917. In 1922 he was appointed a Justice of the District Court. In 1923 he married Norah Ringwood. They had two daughters. He was made a Principal Justice of the Dublin District Court, Chancery Street on December 27th, 1956, and he served as District Justice until 1964.

His writings include three novels, one of which "Another Shore" (1945) was made into a film starring Robert Beatty and Moira Shearer. The others were "Somewhere to the Sea" and "The Four Horse Hearse". He also wrote Children's books. He was keenly interested in the stage and he won a Gold Medal in the Tailteann Games in 1924 for his play "The Passing" which was produced at the Abbey Theatre. Another of his plays "Old Mag" also received an Abbey production.



Kenneth Reddin

When Kenneth Reddin died in 1967, his obituary in The Irish Times described him as "one of the most erudite and wittiest of the legal men who occupied the Bench of the District Court".

Fr. Jack Hanlon

The neighbouring house to Ashleaf was Fortrose. An interesting fact about these houses was that before Independence in 1921 they were maintained by the British Army for the use of the officers of the Dublin garrison, who came to Templeogue for fishing and shooting and other country pastimes.

The last family to own Fortrose before it was knocked down was the Hanlons. Their son, Father Jack Hanlon, C.C., was a very well known artist, whose paintings were exhibited in many countries in Europe and North and South America. He was one of the

founders of the Living Art Exhibition which gave a new direction to Irish painting after the second world war.

Father Hanlon was born in Dublin in 1913, and was educated at Belvedere College, Clonliffe and University College, Dublin. He was ordained in Maynooth in 1939. He won a scholarship to Paris and studied painting there under Andre Lhote. Still life and flowers were his favourite themes, but he also painted religious subjects. He won the Douglas Hyde gold medal and Arts Council prize for a painting of an Irish historical subject. Brian Fallon, the chief critic of *The Irish Times* described his talent as "essentially lyrical and feminine" with a style which "laid emphasis on colour and light".



Fr. Jack Hanlon

Father Hanlon was serving as a curate in Churchtown when he died in 1968. He was a keen gardener, and his garden at Churchtown won a prize in a landscape competition at the Horticultural Society.



Mary Beckett

Mary Beckett

Mary Beckett was born and reared in Belfast. She was a teacher and so were her father and mother before. She began to write when she was twenty-three, and contributed short stories to the *B.B.C.*, *The Bell*, *Irish Writing* and *Threshold* until she married Peter Gaffey in 1956 and came to live in Templeogue. For thirty-five years she has lived there in a house with a sunny kitchen and a view of the mountains. She has reared two daughters and three sons.

Being fully occupied she didn't write any more until the late seventies when the Northern troubles made her write "*A Belfast Woman*". In 1980 it was published by Poolbeg in a collection of her short stories, and reprinted in 1987.

She then wrote a novel about the north called "Give Them Stones" which Bloomsbury in London brought out in hardback in 1987 and the following year in paperback. It was twice read in America by Wm. Morrow, New York, who issued "A Belfast Woman" in 1989. In 1990 Bloomsbury published "A Literary Woman", a collection of short stories about a middle class district in Dublin. Templeogue people will recognise the cherry blossom and cypress trees. The paper back came out in June 1991. "A Literary Woman" was short listed in 1990 for the Hughes Award which was given to John McGahern for "Amongst Women". In its turn "Give Them Stones" was short listed for the same prize but this time Brian Moore's "Colour of Blood" was chosen. "Give Them Stones" did, however, get the "Sunday Tribune Arts Award" for Literature in 1987. It is a little pillar of black marble holding a silver figure. It graces Gaffey's book shelves.

In between times Mary Beckett has written two books for children published by Poolbeg Press in Dublin, "Orla was Six" in 1989 for six year olds to read and "Orla at school" in October 1991 for eight year olds perhaps.

Her books deal with ordinary people; a woman in the north wants to go on an excursion to Dublin, Martha sells bread in a back street in Belfast, a boy in Dublin worries that he might not get into Templeogue College or its equivalent. There is no glamour, no escapism which is possibly why they have not made much money. But the people she writes about never give in and never give up so possibly she won't either.

An unforgettable character – 'Old Tom'

Sometimes as we travel through life we are fortunate to meet someone who leaves a lasting impression. Such a man was Tom Loughlin, affectionately known as "Old Tom".

He was born in Cullenogue, Inch, Wexford, in 1897, one of a family of three. His father died when Tom was twelve years old, so one year later he left Tara Hill National School for a job on a farm, earning sixpence a day and his food. Times were hard then and Tom travelled through England and Scotland, earning his living on farms and building sites through the first years of World War 1.

In 1917 he joined the British Navy, serving on the Destroyer "Sable" but actually did not see any enemy action. He later joined the Mercantile Marine.

By 1922 he was back in Ireland, a country then in civil war and a very troubled place. Jobs were hard to come by so Tom started out on his travelling career during which he tramped the west of Ireland with the renowned Padraic O'Conaire whom he remembered very well. He was reputed also to have tramped from Land's End to John O'Groats.

In early December 1930 trouble found Tom for the first and only time in his life when a very officious Garda summoned him for begging. He missed his court appearance on the stated day but took the Liverpool boat and stayed there for two years.

On his return to Ireland Tom resumed his travels. He acquired a donkey and cart (a measure of his prosperity at the time) and was noted for his spruce appearance in navy blue suit and clean white shirt.

About 1958 he arrived in Templeogue with a few donkeys. He camped on the then undeveloped site of what is the present traffic roundabout joining Cypress Grove Road and Wainsfort Road in one direction, with Templeville Road in the other. Here Tom lived quite happily, becoming well known and a great friend of the children. His pension amounted to £4 a week and his wants were simple. He never asked for charity but several local people looked after him as much as he would allow. Out of his innate courtesy he accepted their gifts, though he never used many of them.

With the development of the area, the traffic roundabout and roadworks, Tom was obliged to leave his camp. The new St. Pius X Primary School was in course of construction and it was arranged for him to move to the site as caretaker. On the completion of the building he set up his home in a lean-to he made in the grounds. Whenever a house for him was suggested he simply smiled "not yet". So the years passed and "Old Tom" lived his life in simplicity and serenity. Despite his accommodation problems he kept himself well. Every morning found him at Mass and Holy Communion in the church, quite happy

to start his day in this way. He was delighted when in 1977 some local people and the children organised a surprise party for his 80th birthday.

In April 1978 Tom Loughlin, the quiet man, died as he had lived. One Sunday morning two of his young friends paid him a visit and found he had slipped away in his sleep. His body was brought to St. Pius X Church and after Mass, when Fr. Desmond Supple described him as "one of nature's gentlemen", he was buried in Mount Jerome Cemetery. His wordly wealth, the portion of his pension he had not spent over the years, was found in a plastic bag.

A little verse by a local poet, Sheila Whittle, and printed in the "Templeogue Telegraph" at the time summed up his impact on the community. These are the concluding lines:-

*"He made the headlines when he died
His worldly goods unused and tied
Although unusual were his ways
His smiling image with us stays.
"A grand day, ma'am" Old Tom would say
And it did seem grand though the sky was grey.
It's a grand day today, Tom, in Templeville
Twould be grander if you were with us still.
But it would be mean just to wish you back
From your heavenly home, to your humble shack."*



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Sponsors:

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Templeogue

140 YEARS AGO

Kimmage Lodge: was re-named Fortfield House in 1973. It is beside Wainsfort Filling Station.

Wainsfort House: on the lands of which Wainsfort Estate was built, was demolished about 1970. Flanagan's, the undertakers, used to live there. The site is still lying vacant in the grounds of Kimmage Manor.

Kimmage Villa: was later re-named Kimmage Manor. It was built by Sir Frederick Shaw and was later sold to the Holy Ghost Fathers. Kimmage House stood nearby.

Eden Cottage: This was soon afterwards re-named Meenanee, after a battle fought in 1843.

Green Lane: is the old name for Greenlea Road. The lane-way shown opposite it, on the other side of Fortfield Road, now leads into Terenure Steelworks. The building shown here, with "(T.S.)" beside it, is now part of the steelworks.

Lakelands House: was only demolished within the last couple of years.

Fortfield House: This was re-named Fortfield Lodge, for building. It stood on the site of the backgardens of numbers 12 and 14 Fortfield Park.

Fortfield Cottage: This was re-named Fortfield Lodge, then Fortfield Manor, and is in Hyde Park. Its former gate-lodge is called Roseville.

Temple Ville: is still standing - it is No. 13 Templeville Park.

Bushy Park House: was built before 1700 and is now part of Our Lady's School. It was the residence of the Shaw family for many years.

Rusina Villa: was later re-named Rose Hall. It was demolished in the 1960s and gave its name to a row of houses built nearby.

Cypress Grove House: built about 1750, is now owned by the White Fathers.

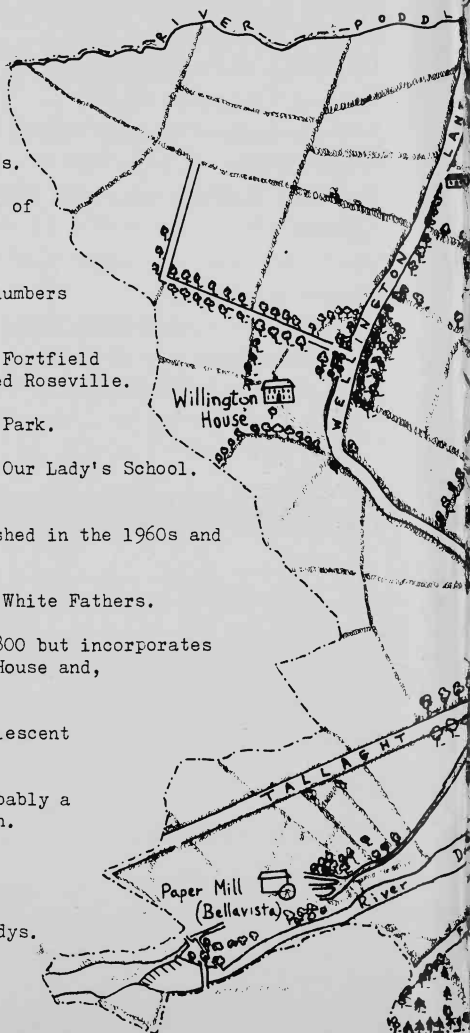
Templeogue House: The present structure was built around 1800 but incorporates part of a mediaeval castle. It is owned by St. Michael's House and, with Kilvare, is used for mentally handicapped children.

Kilvare: built about 1800, was formerly Cheeverstown Convalescent Home.

The Ruined Church: at the corner of Wellington Lane is probably a fifteenth century building on the site of an earlier church. It was in ruins by 1615 (see Templeogue Telegraph, summer vacation issue, 1976).

Spawell House: Built 1703, as an inn, called "The Domville Arms and Three Tuns". Now a farmhouse, owned by the Kennedys.

Cherry Field: Part of this was also an inn. Now in flats.





Bellavista: A paper-mill built about 1710. Some old mill buildings still remain beside the modern house.

Willington House: Built before 1760. A residence of the Kennedy family, then a stud-farm. Demolished 1974.

Orwell House: Another Kennedy house, demolished by 1974.

Mount Down Mill: Disused by 1937, demolished about 1973. When its lands were built over, the estate was called Glendown, as an estate $\frac{1}{4}$ mile away had already been called Moundtown around 1960 (called after this mill).

N.B. The road names shown, except for the Green Lane, are the modern ones. The width of the roads has been deliberately exaggerated, for clarity, and buildings, hedges and trees are shown schematically. Walls and entrances to fields, where shown, are conjectural. House names were usually given as "Willington", "Cypress Grove" etc. I have added "House" to avoid confusion. The area shown consists of the Townland of Templeogue, combined with the R.C. Parish of Templeogue.

